

March 20, 2011 | Second Sunday in Lent

The Readings from Scripture

The First Reading

Genesis 12:1–4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

A reading from the book of Genesis

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 4

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say?

"Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. _____ the _____ chapter

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Prayers of Intercession

As we return to the waters of baptism during this season of Lent, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

You call us to faith again and again. Bind together all those born of water and the Spirit, that your church might be one in Jesus' name.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You gave your only-begotten Son so that the world might be saved through him. Save the polluted waters, the devastated forests, and the species in danger of extinction. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You promised, in Abraham, to bless all the nations of the world. Bestow wisdom on world leaders; bring an end to international conflicts; and grant safety to all who live in fear. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You are a light to those who live in darkness. Be present with all who work or watch or worry through the night, especially hospice volunteers, night nurses, and security guards. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give strength to the weary. Breathe new life into the ministries of this congregation, that we might share your word of hope with the strangers outside our doors. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For what else do the people of God pray?

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You inspire us with the stories of our ancestors in the faith. Keep us in communion with all the saints, until at last we find our rest in you.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Easter Flower Tulip Order

We will be taking orders for tulips to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you wish to sponsor a plant they are \$7.50 per pot. The last day to place your order will be April 3rd as we need to turn these orders into the Greenhouse by Monday, April 11th.

Please complete this form and turn it into the church office along with your check. Checks should be made out to ***St. Paul's***.

Plants may be picked up after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday.



_____ Tulips # of plants (\$7.50 each pot)
Colors will vary.

Given by _____
to beautify God's house ***or***

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

_____ I will be picking up my plant (s) following the 10:30 AM service on Easter Sunday.

_____ I am donating the plant (s) to the church

Lenten and Easter Schedule

Mid Week Soup Supper & Lenten Services:

March 16	Soup @ 6:45 PM	Service @ 7:30 PM
March 23	Soup @ 6:45 PM	Service @ 7:30 PM
March 30	Soup @ 6:45 PM	Service @ 7:30 PM
April 6	Soup @ 6:45 PM	Service @ 7:30 PM
April 13	Soup @ 6:45 PM	Service @ 7:30 PM

Palm Sunday

April 17 - Holy Communion 8 AM | 9:15 AM | 10:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:15 AM

Maundy Thursday

April 21 - Holy Communion Service | 7:30 PM

Good Friday Service

April 22 - 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday

April 24 - 6:30 AM Sunrise | 8 AM Holy Communion
10:30 AM Holy Communion | 9:15 AM Sunday School Only
note: no 9:15 service on Easter

St. Paul's Prayer List ❖ Weekly update to the March Vision

Norm Benner
Landon Shoemaker, *Grandson C&L Weiss*
Jon Bolton
Dorothy Mohr
Sharon Moyer - *Wife of Scott Moyer*
Amanda Martin - *Home*
Rodman Leister

Carl Thomas – *Brother of Henry Thomas*
Regina Stifter - *Friend of Janet Hill*
Jean Cupach – *Sister of Alice Oliver*
The Goodwin Family
Judy Shupe – *Friend of Edith Stevens*
Lewis Fluck – *Father of Anne Gable*
Jeanette Terpoilli

For the complete prayer list ~ please look in the current edition of the Vision Newsletter. The Sunday bulletins only list updates to the complete list in the Vision.

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of Gloria Harpel who went to her eternal rest on March 11, 2011.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones presented by Charles Keck and family.

The Bulletin is given to the glory of God and in honor of the 7th birthday of Avah Virus on March 22nd presented by her grandparents Claude & Pat Walter.

The Sanctuary Lamp is given to the glory of God and in memory of the birthday anniversary of Paul Swope presented by Dee Jordan, grandmom.

“A-Choir” ~ We welcome the Upper Perk High School "A - Choir" at 9:15 AM.

Capital Improvement Fund ~ We have currently received a total of \$62,853 in our Capital Improvement fund toward our goal of \$225,000. Pledges amount to \$64,914.

Elevator Fund ~	Gifts Previously Committed	\$50,000.00
	Gifts Received as of 3.17.11	\$11,390.00
	Total	\$61,390.00

Elevator Project Update ~ Framing of elevator roof and work on elevator shaft.

Upper Montgomery Conference of S.E.PA Synod Women of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America will be held on April 9, 2011 – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Pennsburg - 9:00 a.m. Speaker - David Hartzman.

Easter Egg Hunt ~ Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 AM in the lower parking lot. We are collecting plastic eggs filled with candy for our annual Egg Hunt. Filled plastic eggs may be given to the Vicar. The egg hunt will be held on Saturday.

Wednesday Soup Supper & Lenten Service ~ Soup supper at 6:45 PM. The worship service follows from 7:30- 8 PM.

Lunch Bunch ~ **Wednesday, April 13 at 11:30 am** in Fellowship Hall. Pack your lunch and your mug. Dessert is provided. Ms. Terry Kane will perform Celtic Songs and playing mandolin and guitar. Come and enjoy the beautiful Irish music. If you are a Redner's shopper, use your save-a-tape card and bring the entire register tape to Lunch Bunch or church and drop it into the receipt receptacle. Thank you!

Victory House ~ **Join us** April 10th at 4:00 as we volunteer at the Victory house. For more information contact Laura Foreman at 267-923-8895

Our Appalachia Service Project team will be traveling to Clay Co. KY for a week of home repairs during the week of July 3.

~ **This Week at St. Paul's** ~

Sunday	Early Service with Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service with Holy Communion	9:15 AM
	A-Choir	9:15 AM
	Sunday Church School	9:15 AM
	Late Service with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Table Talk	4:15 PM
	Generations Choir	6:30 PM
	Bell Choir	7:30 PM
	Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM
Monday	Cub Scouts	6:30 PM
	Cemetery Committee	7:00 PM
	Praise Team Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Wednesday	Soup Supper	6:45 PM
	Mid Week Lenten Service	7:00 PM
	Alcoholics Anonymous	8:00 PM
Thursday	Evening Bible Study – <i>at the home of Bonnie Bonser</i>	7:00 PM
Friday	Girl Scouts	6:30 PM
Sunday	Early Service with Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service with Holy Communion	9:15 AM
	Sunday Church School	9:15 AM
	Late Service with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Youth Group ages 7 to 11	11:00 AM
	Youth Group – Sr. High	4:15 PM
	Generations Choir	6:30 PM
	Bell Choir	7:30 PM
Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM	

~ **Today's Worship Assistants** ~

Altar Guild	8:00 AM	Barbara Miller	
Assistant	8:00 AM	Sandy Bergey	10:30 AM Jan Woertz
Ushers	9:15 AM	Ron & Diane Leister	
	10:30 AM	Charlie & Jan Woertz	
Monday		Charlie Shagg & Tom Sands	

Upcoming Women's Event - Ladies reserve Saturday, May 14th. You are invited to a spring program in the Fellowship Hall from 9-12:15. Look for a poster and sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the elevator hallway. We will be going to the Gilbertsville Tea Room at 1:00 PM with the first 30 ladies who sign up. Program is free. Tea room cost is \$24.00/person. Contact Bonnie Bonser with any questions. 215-679-5553 ext. 125

An Evening with Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, author of "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm at Central Moravian Church West Church & Main Streets, Bethlehem. General Admission tickets are available - \$10/ticket. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact St. Luke's InfoLink at 1-866-STLUKES (785-8537) or visit www.slnh.org/bereavement.