

THE SECOND WEDNESDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 2023

7:00PM

WATER GIVES YOU LIFE

Water circulates throughout Scripture to wash, cleanse, flood, and reshape. Like a potter, your heavenly Father remodels you every day, conforming you more closely to the image of His Son, Jesus. As a baptized child of God, you will grow to appreciate through the example of daily washings how rich an inheritance is given to you by the water and the Word in Holy Baptism.

LENT EVENING PRAYER PROPERS INSERT

(Continued from page 8 of the worship booklet.)

PSALM 23:

The psalm is read responsively by verses. The pastor begins.

P : The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C: **He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**

P: He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

C: **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

C: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

PSALM PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, through water You reshape and restore Your fallen creation, entering our lives in Baptism so that we may be cleansed by Your Spirit.

C **Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: 2 Kings 5: 1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife.³ She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel."⁵ And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy."⁷ And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house.¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 3: 17-22

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (1 Pet. 3:17-22 ESV)

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READING: John 3: 1-8

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: The Light shines in the darkness

C: and the darkness has not overcome it.

All who are able, stand

HYMN: “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” LSB 435 *(burgundy book)*

**Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; ye shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; Those who drink shall thirst no more.**

**Those who drink shall live forever; ‘Tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our redeemer died, Sealed when he was glorified.**

All sit

MEDITATION

All who are able, stand

The liturgy continues on page 8 of the worship booklet with the ANNUNCIATION and MAGNIFICAT.

We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office. To God be the glory!

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” LSB 435: Text: Public Domain

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