

## Readings of the Day

**The Collect:** O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Old Testament: Genesis 12:1-4a**

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. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I 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." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

### **The Response: Psalm 121**

#### ***Levavi oculos***

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \* from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, \* the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved \* and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \* shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; \* the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \* nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \* it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \* from this time forth for evermore.

### **The Epistle: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

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

### St. Mark's Lay Leadership March 8, 2020

Acolyte  
Molly Hamrin  
Mitchell  
Kitchen

Altar Guild  
Sidoux  
Mitchell

Flower Guild  
Eulie  
Campbell  
Delsa Chui

Greeter  
Bonnie Wilkins

Intercessor  
Kathy  
Lemmon

Lectors  
Rosa Krewson  
Steve Mitchell

Lay  
Eucharistic  
Ministers  
TBD

Cassie  
Kitchen

Tellers  
JW Bailes  
David Powers

Ushers  
Karen  
Ashworth  
David Powers

## Announcements

**Vacation Bible School:** Join St. Mark's and Bethany Lutheran Churches as we jointly present a fun-filled week of VBS **June 22-26** at Bethany Lutheran Church (2501 Beacon Hill Rd). The theme is **Rainforest Explorers: Jesus Leads the Way.** Children (potty trained) 3-11 years old (PK- rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade) are welcome to register in the coming weeks. We have many **volunteer opportunities:** team leaders (8-10 children), station leaders (music, story, snack, games, bible challenge, craft), decorations/set-up, and more. Youth are also encouraged to volunteer! Please pray about how God is calling you to both serve this Vacation Bible School and represent our church. Contact VBS Director, Ashley Bryda: [ashpearson@aol.com](mailto:ashpearson@aol.com), 571-435-0676.

### Hymns for Today

Let thy blood in mercy poured - #313  
The glory of those forty days - #143  
How firm a foundation - #636  
My faith looks up to thee - #691



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

3/2 – Shelley Luxner/Maxwell McIntyre/Kelvin Kitchen  
3/5 – Kosi Dominic/Frances Robles  
3/6 – Jim Bailes/Eric Bryda

## Readings of the Day (cont'd)

## **ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**"Opening the door to Christ's love"**

**March 8, 2020**

"Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For 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. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For 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, as 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 Gospel: John 3: 1-17**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He 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." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus 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?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The 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." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For 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. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

*'I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.'* (Matthew 25:36b)

When I was in seminary my Church History professor told us just one of the ways early Christians were able to survive the persecution and torture and oppression as a tiny Jewish sect to become a religion that spans the globe: caring for the sick. When the custom of the day was to discard the sick like trash outside the city walls, Christians would bring them into their homes. These brave acts of witness drew more and more to call themselves people of The Way. As a parent of two teenage daughters, I've received no less than five emails TODAY regarding school, county, college, community and team responses to the coronavirus. I'm sure your work/school/community center has emailed you, too. I also received an email from the diocese about communion practices and how to pass the peace at services. And yet there are no cases of the virus in Fairfax County or even the greater DC region. I want to be very clear about this: St. Mark's Church is Opening the Door to Christ's Love. Loosely translated: We don't panic. If you are not feeling well, please stay home and take care of yourself. Stay hydrated, eat well and get plenty of rest. That is where healing happens. If you need help, call me or someone else in the parish so we can tend to you. Everyone should wash their hands! All the time. Every time you get the opportunity to wash your hands, take it! If it would make you feel better to carry hand-sanitizer, then I think you should. We will not have hand-sanitizer at church because we trust you (if you're not feeling well, stay home!), we trust one another (if you want to fist-bump at the peace then you should do that), and we trust God. Our housekeeping staff is doing an amazing job of keeping our sacred space clean and safe. In fact, having a school here during the week means an even more vigilant team cleaning and sanitizing surfaces. As Christians, we are called to be better. Not just in church but in the world. We trust in the One who makes all things new. If you would like to talk about this further, please email me at [rector@stmarksalex.org](mailto:rector@stmarksalex.org). When all is said and done, I want to be known for opening the door to Christ's love.

Faithfully,  
Rev. Elizabeth+

**"While we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer".....(Acts 6:4)**

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or adversity, especially Nell, Nihal, Emily, Don, Kathy and Kayleigh.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.