

## Heart-to-Heart Talks

# “Jesus and Nicodemus: Who is Jesus to You?”

March 5, 2023

### **As We Gather**

Jesus and Nicodemus had a heart-to-heart talk about life, birth, and the Holy Spirit. But the main point was who Jesus was and why He had come. Was He merely a teacher sent by God, or was He the one through whom God gives new birth and eternal life? Who is Jesus to you?

### **Welcome**

### **+ Gathering +**

### **“God So Loved”**

Come all you weary  
Come all you thirsty  
Come to the well that never runs dry  
Drink of the water  
Come and thirst no more

Come all you sinners  
Come find His mercy  
Come to the table He will satisfy  
Taste of His goodness  
Find what you're looking for

For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Bring all your failures  
Bring your addictions  
Come lay them down  
At the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting there  
With open arms

For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever  
The power of hell forever defeated  
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom  
For God so loved God so loved the world

Praise God praise God  
From whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him praise Him  
For the wonders of His love

For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save

Bring all your failures  
Bring your addictions  
Come lay them down  
At the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting  
God so loved the world

### **Invocation**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

### **Prayer**

### **Children's Church**

+ Service of the Word +

**First Reading: Genesis 12:1-9**

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

<sup>6</sup> Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

<sup>8</sup> From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Reading: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17**

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? <sup>2</sup> If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. <sup>3</sup> What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

<sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup> However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. <sup>6</sup> David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are those  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed is the one  
whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

<sup>4</sup> “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ!**

**Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Sermon**

**“Jesus and Nicodemus: Who is Jesus to You?”**

**Offering**

**Prayers**

*Please add your prayer requests to the chat.*

**Thanksgivings**

**Pastor:** O Lord, we praise You.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Petitions**

**Pastor:** Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**St. John’s People and Families**

- Rita Alexander
- Paul, Shau Ching, & Jonathan Han
- Roger Mahlandt
- Sharon Mitchell
- Lisa and Grace Walter
- Ana and Elias Baber
- Ian, Kimberly, Faith, & Vincenzo Fradella
- Dan, Abigail, Molly, & Noah Hardy
- Dustin, Jillian, Jena, & Brianna McNab
- Morgan, Joanne, & Pierce Zaninovich

## + The Service of Holy Communion +

### Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

People: **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

#### Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

#### Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

People: **Amen.** *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

People: **Amen.**  
*(Take and drink)*

### **“Build My Life”**

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever  
breathe  
We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name  
Jesus the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever  
breathe  
We live for You  
We live for You

Holy there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me  
who  
You are  
And fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around  
me  
  
I will build my life upon Your love  
It is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You alone  
And I will not be shaken

### **“God With Us”**

Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love  
To be nearer to us  
You've come to bring life to be Light  
To shine brighter in us  
Oh Emmanuel God with us

Oh You've come to be Hope to this world  
For Your honor and name  
And You've come to take sin to bear shame  
And to conquer the grave  
Oh Emmanuel God with us

#### **Chorus**

Our Deliverer You are Savior  
In Your presence we find our strength  
Over ev'rything our Redemption  
God with us  
You are God with us

You are here  
You are holy  
We are standing in Your glory  
You are here  
You are holy  
We are standing in Your glory

#### **Communion Blessing**

**Pastor:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

**People:** **Amen.**

#### **Prayer**

### **“Who You Say I Am”**

Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

Free at last  
He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am

I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

### **Benediction**

### **Offering**

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

### **Memory Verse for This Week**

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that  
whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**John 3:16**

## Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Anne Heine
Communion Assistants	Anne Heine, Mike Newton Rebecca Vitkus, Joel Wahlers
Sound Technician	Jacob Bartelt
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Worship Preparation Team	Gerry & Midge Schneider, Jan Newton, Ron Irwin
Ushers	Steve & Christy Wood
Projection Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Children's Church	Sarah Santora, Pam Watkins, Debbie Kirkpatrick
Worship Band	Thane Knutson, Steve Rock, Judi Rock, Heidi Newman

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

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