

***St. John Lutheran Church & School  
Berlin, Wisconsin  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



***March 1, 2026  
The Second Sunday in Lent***

**Serving Us Today:  
Pastor Rob Schrader  
Organist: Nancy Wallner  
920-361-9935  
[www.stjohnberlin.org](http://www.stjohnberlin.org)**

***Large Print Bulletin***

**AS WE GATHER...** Abraham looms over the Old and New Testaments. Abraham is also our father because we are in Christ. We are his heirs, who live within the promise God made to us through Abraham. We are also his heirs as a people whose righteousness is not by accomplishment but by faith, not by works but by trusting in the promise of God to save us. Paul urges both Jew and Gentile to see in Abraham the model of faith who many times was left only with faith in God's promises and still believed. So now are we commended to show forth that we are his heirs by our own faith in Christ, our righteousness. Like Abraham, we have no real options. Our hope is bound to the Father's gracious promises fulfilled in Christ.

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS...** Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the Narthex.

### **Confession and Absolution**

**908 Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear**

**1 Lord, open now my heart to hear,  
And through Your Word to me draw near;  
Let me Your Word e'er pure retain;  
Let me Your child and heir remain.**

**2 Your Word inspires my heart within;  
Your Word grants healing from my sin;  
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless;  
Your Word brings peace and happiness.**

△ **3 To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Shall glory, praise, and honor be  
Now and throughout eternity.**

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Mark A. Jeske, 1952. Text (sts. 1, 3): Public domain. Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their  
Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **Service of the Word**

**Introit**

*Psalm 105:4–7; antiphon: v. 8*

He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

**Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

**O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

**Kyrie**

**LSB 204**

**C Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**CAmen.**

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading**

*Genesis 12:1–3*

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>And 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. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle**

*Hebrews 11:8–21*

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup>For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore

God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. <sup>20</sup>By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. <sup>21</sup>By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 1:46–55*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent empty away.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Apostles' Creed**

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

## **Children's Sermon**

### **729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus**

**1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only Thee;  
Trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free.**

**2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;  
At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy  
Trusting now.**

**3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing  
In the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy  
By Thy blood.**

**4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;  
Thou alone shalt lead,**

**Ev'ry day and hour supplying  
All my need.**

**5 I am trusting Thee for power;  
Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
Must prevail.**

**6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Text: Public domain

**Sermon "The History of the World that *Really* Matters:  
The People"**

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

*Sit*

**Offering**

**Service of the Sacrament**

*Stand*

## **Preface**

*LSB 208*

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P "Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, let us now and evermore praise God's glorious name, singing:

**Sanctus**    *LSB 208*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim**

**shout the glory of Your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;**

**Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

**Lord's Prayer**

**C 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.**

### **The Words of Our Lord**

P 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."

### **Pax Domini**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C Amen.**

### **Agnus Dei LSB 210**

**C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**

**You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*Text: Stephen P. Starke*

## **Distribution Hymns**

### **849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

**1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,  
Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands  
With the very Bread of peace.**

**2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand;**

**From this Well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,  
Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise the One who makes us one.**

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955. Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used  
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## **420 Christ, the Life of All the Living**

**1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,**

**O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**3 Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,  
Treating Thee with shameful scorn  
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.  
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,  
That as Thine Thou mightest own me  
And with heav'nly glory crown me.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish**

**Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**6 Thou hast suffered great affliction  
And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,  
Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.**

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2, 5, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 3–4, 6): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis. Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis    *LSB 211***

**C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Benedicamus**

*LSB 212*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**433 Glory Be to Jesus**

**1 Glory be to Jesus,  
Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood  
From His sacred veins!**

**2 Grace and life eternal  
In that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion,  
Infinitely kind!**

**3 Blest through endless ages  
Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment  
Did the world redeem!**

**4 Abel's blood for vengeance  
Pleaded to the skies;**

**But the blood of Jesus  
For our pardon cries.**

**5 Oft as earth exulting  
Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing  
Make their glad reply.**

**6 Lift we, then, our voices,  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious blood!**

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Text:  
Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

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**Attendance Last Week: 288**

**General giving last week: \$11,151.00**

**Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00**

## Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

4 Wednesday	Lent Supper	5:15-6:15 pm
<b>4 Wednesday</b>	<b>Lent Evening Service</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
5 Thursday	Ladies Aid	1:30 pm
<b>8 Sunday</b>	<b>Worship Service/HC</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
8 Sunday	Bible Class	10:30 am
8 Sunday	Sunday School	10:30 am

**ASLEEP IN JESUS:** Roger Wagner fell asleep in the arms of his Savior on Friday, February 20th and received a Christian funeral from St. John on Tuesday, March 3rd. May the Lord comfort those who remain with His words: "BECAUSE I LIVE, YE SHALL LIVE ALSO."

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT - HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE:** The Human Care Committee serves our church family and community with compassion and confidentiality by helping with needs such as medical expenses, rent, utilities, rides, and encouragement. We seek to show God's love in tangible ways, remembering that He has first cared for us in Christ. If you have a caring and sharing heart and would like to serve, we would love to have you join us. For more information, please contact Linda Nitz.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SUPPERS:** Wed. March 4<sup>th</sup>. This supper is sponsored by the **Board of Christian Education**. They will be featuring **PASTA NIGHT!**

**TITUS 2 WOMEN'S MINISTRY:** Titus 2 is a women's group dedicated to building Christian relationships between different generations. Their next gathering is March 7th from 5:00-8:00 at River Shores Church. For details and to RSVP call/text Rachel Cassidy at (920) 290-4459.



**GOING ON NOW!!**

The PTL Hanging Basket Sale  
**Last day to order – Sunday, March 1st**  
Order form is in the Card Room.

**PTL MEETING CHANGE OF DATE:** Please note that our PTL meeting scheduled for this Sunday has been re-scheduled to March 16th. We are excited to announce that we are planning a PTL Potluck Family Night and we will hold our PTL meeting during that event instead. Please save the date and keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT – March 14th:** Join us for a fun evening of fellowship at St. John's Lutheran School on **Saturday, March 14, from 5:00 – 7:30 pm. Admission is \$10 per person or \$55 for a table of six.** Childcare will be available for a free will offering. All proceeds support the school's new roof project. A small silent auction will also be held. **Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, call Gretchen Willis (608-566-9070) , or contact the School Office.**

**MEN'S MINISTRY:** Join us for our next Men's Ministry gathering on Monday, March 2, at 5:30 PM in the church basement. We'll start with a Bible study, followed by a warm meal and fun trivia to build fellowship. All men are welcome—come for great food, discussion, and connection!

**St. John Lutheran Men's Ministry Presents:**  
**Hoops for Hunger 3v3 Challenge**  
**Saturday, March 7, 2026 • 9:00 AM • St. John School**  
**Gymnasium, Berlin, WI**

Join our double-elimination 3v3 basketball tournament for males 14+. Teams of 3 play to 21 (2s & 3s), mostly half-court with Final Four on full court.

Entry: One paper bag of non-perishable food per team—all donations support our local food pantry!

Prizes: 1st: \$210 • 2nd: \$90 • 3rd: \$60

Spectators welcome—free admission! Our goal: a massive food collection to help families in need. **Register by Saturday, February 28, 2026. To Contact the Men's Ministry for details and sign-up please message 920-658-3029.** Bring your team, bring some cans, and let's hoop for hunger!

**FOOD PANTRY NEWS:** We want to thank everyone here at St. John who so generously supported our food drives last year. We are again collecting for the Berlin Food Pantry in March. We will be accepting

non-perishable food items, paper products and monetary donations. Please place your donations in the large blue bin.

**LOOKING FOR USHERS:** If you're interested in serving the church one month a year as an usher, please sign up in the back of church. It's a great way to start getting involved and give back to the Lord who has given so much to you!

**LOOKING FOR MEDIA HELPERS:** We could use more helpers to advance the slides during both Thursday and Sunday services and to video record the Sunday services. Both tasks really help us to proclaim the Gospel and neither require much computer savviness. Please sign up in the back of church.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CAMP LUWISOMO:** St. John has money set aside to provide scholarships for children who'd like to attend summer camp at Camp LuWiSoMo. If you're interested, please speak with Pastor Rob before March 16.

**SUMMER VBS!** Summer Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! The St. John Board of Christian Education is looking for a VBS lead for this summer. You can pick the date(s) the program runs and the times. There is an awesome group of people willing to help out; we just need someone to be the organizer. Please reach out to the school office if you are interested.  
**school@stjohnberlin.org      920-361-0555,**  
**or talk to any school board member.**

## **SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT STUDENT FINANCIAL AID:** -

Anyone attending a Concordia University or Seminary, is a member of an LCMS congregation in the SWD and is preparing to be a full-time church worker (pastor, teacher, deaconess, DCE/DCO, DFLM, DPM, lay minister) is encouraged to apply. There are two applications required (District Financial Aid Application and Personal Aid Application). Both are available on the SWD website – [www.swd.lcms.org/AID](http://www.swd.lcms.org/AID). Applications are due at the District Office by May 15.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS:** If you're interested in joining our church or learning more about our Christian faith, we would love to have you join us for our next New Member class! The 8 week class will be held on Sunday evenings at 6:00PM beginning Feb 22 and ending Apr 19 (excluding Easter). If you're interested, even if you can't make every class, please contact Pastor Rob at [pastor@stjohnberlin.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnberlin.org). Current members are also welcome!

**MONDAY MORNING CONNECTION GROUP:** The Monday morning Connection Group invites you to our current Bible study series titled "Courageous Heroes of the Faith." It highlights men and women in the Bible who overcame extraordinary challenges and shows that God chooses ordinary people--like us--to do His extraordinary work. It also shows how God forgave, sustained, and enabled those people to serve Him. We meet the first and third Monday morning of each month in the church basement from 9:30 until 11:00. March 2 we will study Rahab, then Jonathan, Hezekiah, Mary/Martha, and Apollos. There are five other Connection Groups

meeting and studying various topics. Check with the church office for times and dates.

**DIVORCE CARE:** Meets on Thursday nights at 6:00 pm in the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade room off the multipurpose room at River Shores church (253 S. Church St.) Contact River Shores Church Office with any questions. (920-376-5877)

**MISSING GREEN JACKET:** Following the Wednesday evening service on February 25th, one of our members discovered his new Green North Face winter jacket was missing from the main level coat rack. It was a gift to him and he would like it returned. If you see the jacker or if someone mistakenly took the jacket, kindly return it to the Church Office.

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### **Sermon Notes – 3-1-26 – The People**

-When we look into God's \_\_\_\_\_, we see the real answers to these questions which helps us to be all that God made us to be, enables us to properly understand and interact with the world around us, and fills us with hope as we hear again that our destination – if we have faith in God – is eternal life in heaven..

-The story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

-Who are we?

-First, in this narrative, we see that we're people whom God is intent upon \_\_\_\_\_.

-God tested Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And God still tests us – that’s also part of who we are. As people whom God is intent upon saving, we’re necessarily people God is intent upon testing.

-Therefore, as people God is intent upon saving, we necessarily are also people God must be intent upon \_\_\_\_\_ because tests do two main things: they show our trust and strengthen our trust.

-Why are things the way they are?

-If we hadn’t \_\_\_\_\_ our world and ourselves, there’d be no struggles. But broken things happen because we live in a broken world.

-But God does love us, and because he’s intent on saving us, and to save us he needs to bring us to trust him so that we’ll go to him to be our Savior, he turns our sufferings into something good – into \_\_\_\_\_.

-Where are we going?

-Abraham “desired a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called his God, for he prepared for him a city.”

-We talked a lot today about God’s gracious tests which show whether or not we have this saving trust in him and also strengthen that trust so that through it we have the same \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to look forward to as Abraham did! That’s where we’re going!

-Use God's tests as they're meant to be used. Let him show you where your trust in him is at, let him show you your shortcomings; be humble enough to see them. But also let him strengthen your trust in him – see him be trustworthy, see him pull you through, see him leading you to heaven.