

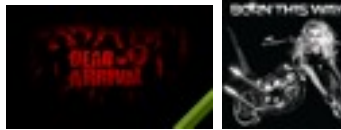
16 March 2014 - Second Sunday in Lent

Readings: Genesis 12:1–4a; Romans 4:1–5, 13–17; John 3:1–17.

Theme: *Do-Re-Mi* – John 3:3, “Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**.’”



INTRO: “Let’s start at the very beginning...”



I. “**DO**” – **DOA (Dead on arrival)**. “**WHY** the need?”

John 3:3, “Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, **no one** can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

Genesis 2:16-17, “And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **for when you eat from it you will certainly die.**’”

Ephesians 2:1, “As for you, **you were dead** in your transgressions and sins.”



We can’t SEE or ENTER the kingdom of God without it.

John 3:3, “Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, **no one can see** the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

John 3:5, “Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, **no one can enter** the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.”

John 3:18, “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands **condemned already** because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”



II. “RE” - RoutE to being reborn. “HOW does this happen?”

In a word: **Repentance**.

John 3:5, “Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of **water and the Spirit**.’”

A. Water. The natural: Word and sacrament.

Titus 3:5, “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us **through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit**.”

Romans 10:17, “Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through **the word about Christ**.”

B. The Spirit. The supernatural: the Holy Spirit.

John 3:8, 14-16, “**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.”

Lion: “I love the wind blowing through my hair...”



III. “MI” – The “Me” RESULTS. “WHAT are the results?”

John 3:11, “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.” Cf. Me-we “Know” Me-we “See”... Only the beginning!

CONCLUSION: St. Patrick, Martin Luther, C.S. Lewis...

Me-we DO as well, in Jesus’ name. Amen. AE☺