

## Second Sunday in Lent

February 28 & March 1, 2026

### Introduction to the day

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Blessed be God  
who is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and rich in love,  
God does not treat us as our sins deserve  
nor punish us according to our guilt,  
but looks upon us in compassion,  
forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

Therefore, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection*

Have mercy, O God,  
**against you, you alone, have we sinned.**  
**In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt.**  
**Create in us a new heart, and give us a steadfast spirit.**  
**Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us.**

As tender as parent to child,  
so gentle is God with you.  
As high as heaven is above earth,  
so vast is God's love for you.  
As far as east is from west,  
so far God removes your sin from you,  
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.  
**Blessed be God forever.**



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
 for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
 he bore the shameful cross and death;  
 for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;  
 for us he went on high to reign;  
 for us he sent his Spirit here  
 to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God  
 for love so deep, so high, so broad:  
 the Trinity whom we adore  
 forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.  
 Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

## GREETING

Christ has called us to this place,  
 gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

**We are followers of Christ  
 who seek to hear the Word,  
 live the Word, and share the Word.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# KYRIE

*Assisting Minister*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

*All*

Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Chri-ste e-le-i-son.

*To Bids  
Last time to Conclusion*

Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son, e-le-i-son, e-le-i-son.

*Assisting Minister  
freely*

1. For peace between nations, faithfulness in the Church, and the mercy, and pain, a -  
2. For those who seek the light, those who thirst for mercy, and pain, a -  
3. For those who are hungry, grieving or in pain, a -

healing of creation, all who long for God, let us pray.  
bandoned or afraid,

**Conclusion**

*Assisting Minister*

Help, save, comfort and defend us, O God.

*All*

*To Prayer of the Day*

*To Evening Hymn of Praise*

A - men. men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

5:30 Praise Team  
8:30 Laury Detro  
11:00 Chancel Choir

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> 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> 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 the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

<sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

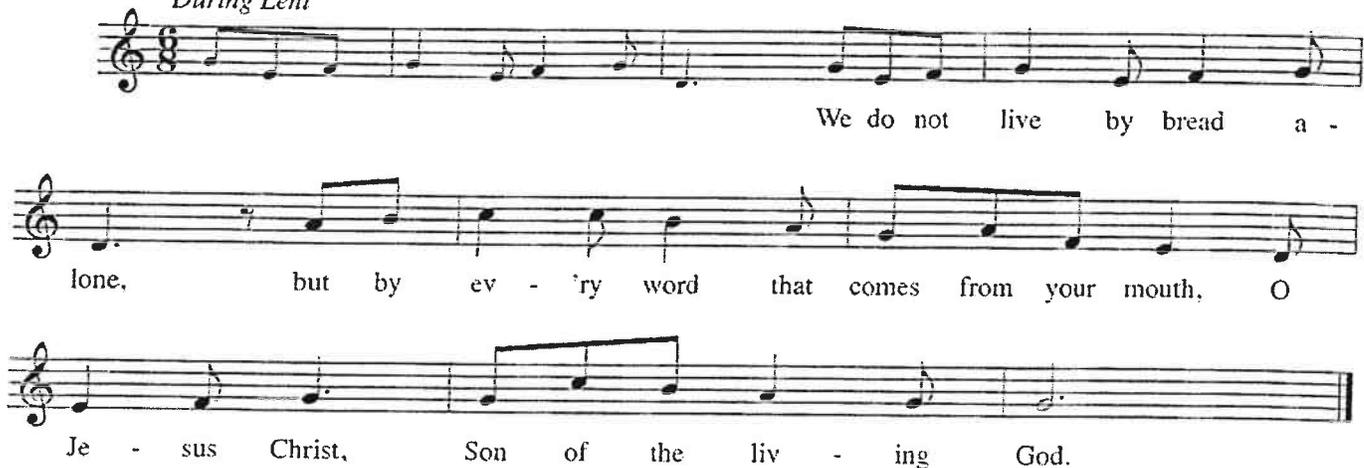
<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Or

*During Lent*



We do not live by bread a -  
lone, but by ev - 'ry word that comes from your mouth, O  
Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

The holy gospel according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

**Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

### GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> 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 unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup> 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?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup> "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. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "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.

<sup>17</sup> "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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pr. Celeste



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of**

**saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the**

**life everlasting.**

**Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymn writers throughout the ages (*like George Herbert whom the church remembers today*), give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially*

Mel Satnan, Stephany Sanborn, Lacey Mescher, Dawn Jensen, Alan Meilike, Pam S., Pr. Hering, Patricia Minchin, Edie Goodwin, John Myre, John Robbins, Sandi Mitchem, Both Dak and the family of Andy Besco

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly (*especially*) and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(ELW 188)



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

## OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through your abundant goodness, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider* The Lord be with you. *All* And also with you.  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts. *All* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* It is right to give our thanks and praise. *To Proper Preface*

# PREFACE

It is in - deed right and good ev - 'ry - where and al - ways to  
give you thanks and praise, Ho - ly God, might - y and im - mor - tal,  
through your Son, Je - sus Christ, who calls us to return to you and live, for  
you are gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger,  
full of love, and faith - ful to your prom - is - es. And—  
so with the Church on earth and the hosts of— heav - en we  
*To Holy, Holy*  
praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef. The first staff begins with a 6/8 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). A first ending bracket with an asterisk (\*) spans the first six measures. The word 'All' is written above the seventh measure. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he the One who comes, who Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: LENT

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**I am not worthy to receive you Lord; but only say the Word and I shall be healed.**

# LAMB OF GOD

4 *All*  
 Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; — have mer - cy on us, — have mer - cy on us.  
 1., 2.  
 world; grant — us peace, grant — us peace.  
 3.

# DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*from Unfailing Light*

*All*  
 1. By your hand you feed your  
 2. In this meal we taste your  
 3. Send us now with faith and  
 peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav - en's bread; for these  
 sweet - ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace; ho - ly  
 cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved. In our  
 gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
 Word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
 liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:  
 Christ's own bod - y, — blessed and bro - ken, — cup o'er - flow - ing, life out -  
 poured, giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;  
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,  
 3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
 glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,  
 God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.  
 in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937  
 Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker  
 Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker



1 All who hun - ger, gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun - ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.  
 3 All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us, now and forever.  
**Amen**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

As you go on your way may Christ go with you,  
May he go before you to show you the way;  
May he go behind you to encourage you,  
Beside you to befriend you,  
Above you to watch over,  
Within you to give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**