



MARCH 1, 2026 | 9:00 AM | SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

Technical Directors: Jody Meyer, Corey Dornbrack
Organist: Darlene Johnson
Music Director: Tiffany Bucheger
Faith Formation Director: Kari Weiland

On most Sundays, children will begin in worship and be dismissed to their Sunday School classes after the “Time for All Ages.”

For those children staying in worship, please use the bookmarks available to mark the pages for today’s hymns. Go through the bulletin with your children and circle the things in which they might be interested (Children’s time, hymns, helping with the offering). Mark the bulletin with symbols for when it is time to be quiet and listen, join in the hymn, read a prayer aloud, etc.

Busy Bags are available in the church entryway. Quite often, children can absorb what is going on in church if their hands are occupied and their minds do not have to focus so much on “behaving.” It takes a great deal of energy and concentration for a child to stay quiet and still. Please use the busy bags to occupy their hands so they are free to listen. Nudge them when it is time for a hymn and ask them to sing along with you. Encourage them to come forward for the *Time for All Ages* and to participate in presenting the offering.

WORDS TO PONDER PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt

*** Invites those comfortably able to do so to stand.**

Quick and Easy Electronic Giving!!

To give an offering to the church, text **"SAINTSTEPHENS" to 73256** to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. **OR Scan the QR Code** to be connected to our website.



SOMETHING TO INSPIRE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We are met in the presence of God
And we do not meet alone.

With the angels in the highest heaven
We gather to worship the Lord.

With Abraham and Sarah
We gather to worship the Lord.

With the saints of every age
We gather to worship the Lord.

With the all those who gathered together to build this congregation,
We gather to worship the Lord.

We embark on our own journey of faith
God's Holy name be praised.

God makes of us a great people
God's Holy name be praised.

In the desert and in the den, in barrio and basilica
God's Holy name be praised.

We journey in the presence of God.
And we do not journey alone.

* OPENING HYMN *"What Wondrous Love Is This"* #200

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

EPISTLE LESSON

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? "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.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17

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

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

¹⁶ "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.

¹⁷ "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.

This is the good news.

In these words we find eternal life.

MESSAGE

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS FOR THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Annalie as she lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

* PRESENTATION HYMN *"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"* #75

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

SYMBOLS OF GRACE

BENEDICTION

PASTORAL PRAYERS

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

DIALOGUE

May God be with you

And also with you.

Lift your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is right and meet, beautiful and holy that we should, in ceaseless joy give our thanks and praise to you, Holy and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

You brought the sun and the world into being.

You breathed life into dust and ash to form all life on this planet, including humanity.

When we were in bondage, you delivered us to new freedom.



We joyfully celebrate the baptism of Annalie Ziesemer as she begins her Christian journey among us. On this special day and always may God look down on you, cherish you and keep you safely in his care.

TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

Reading the great bible stories to children is a good way to familiarize them with those stories and to deepen their understanding of the historical path leading to Jesus and the spiritual path leading to Jesus for us.

Before reading a story, help your children be active listeners by telling them to listen for a certain word, or ask them to count how many times they hear a particular word in a story.

Ask them to think about how the characters must feel in particular situations. “How do you think David felt when he saw Goliath?” for instance.

For today’s Gospel story, “What 3 temptations or challenges does the tempter give to Jesus?” And then discuss who tempts us today? TV advertising? Do they have friends who want them to do things or behave in a way you do not want them to do? How do their friends tempt them?

Helping them to understand the stories better—and the feelings, doubts and fears of even our great heroes and heroines in the faith—will help them feel

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