

**LENT**  
**Recognizing Our Need**  
**3-1-26**

**THEME:** Recognizing Our Need For Faith

*Lent is the season of the Church Year when we recognize our greatest needs. During Lent, we realize that in Christ all our greatest needs are met. God knows what we need even when we don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.*

† GOD CALLS †

INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen!

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN

“I Stand Amazed”

I bring You my heart, I bring You my praise,  
I bring You my broken dreams I've lost along the way.  
I lift up my voice, I lift up my hands,  
I lift up the moments in my life that I don't understand

And I lay it at the cross  
Where I'm surrounded by Your grace  
And I marvel at the wonder of Your love

Chorus

I stand amazed, I stand in awe  
I stand forgiven in the midst of it all  
Before You I bow, before You I fall  
Blessed Redeemer, sweet Savior of all  
I stand amazed

I offer You thanks, I offer my life  
I offer a sacrifice of praise  
When I'm scattered by the night

For You are my shelter  
You are my King  
You are the risen Son of God  
The Lord of everything

And I'm standing at the cross  
Where I'm surrounded by Your grace  
And I marvel at the wonder of Your love

I stand amazed, I stand in awe  
I stand forgiven in the midst of it all  
Before You I bow, before You I fall  
Blessed Redeemer, sweet Savior of all

And there is life in His body  
There is grace in His blood  
There is peace for the sinner  
Given by God's love

I stand amazed, I stand in awe  
I stand forgiven in the midst of it all  
Before You I bow, before You I fall  
Blessed Redeemer, sweet Savior of all  
I stand amazed

† GOD FORGIVES †

### CONFESSION

**Pastor:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to forgive us.

**ALL:** Lord of Life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

### ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our 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.

**ALL:**        **Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE**  
**“The Gospel Doxology”**

Your perfect Law exposes me  
I feel my sin and desperate need  
My best good works are powerless  
To satisfy Your righteousness

But there is One who lived for me  
His life, my only victory  
His death forever sealed in time  
That I am His and He is mine

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below,  
Praise him above, O heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**Pastor:**     The peace of the Lord be with you all!

**ALL:**        **And also with you!**

† **GOD SPEAKS** †

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**OLD TESTAMENT**

**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>[a]</sup>

<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>[b]</sup>

<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<sup>[c]</sup> 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.

## EPISTLE

### Romans 4:1-5, 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>[a]</sup>

<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.

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.”<sup>[a]</sup> 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.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** 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>[a]</sup>”

<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 <sup>[b]</sup> gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You <sup>[c]</sup> 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>[d]</sup>

<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>[e]</sup> <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>[f]</sup> <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” <sup>[g]</sup>

<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.

**Reader:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to You, O Christ!

## SERMON

**SONG OF THE DAY (new song for Lent)**  
**“It Was Finished Upon That Cross” (The Sing Hymnal #248)**

How I love the voice of Jesus  
on the cross of Calvary.  
He declares his work is finished;  
he has spoken this hope to me.  
Though the sun had ceased its shining,  
thought he war appeared as lost,  
Christ had triumphed over evil.  
It was finished upon that cross.

Now the curse, it has been broken;  
Jesus paid the price for me.  
Full the pardon he has offered.  
Great the welcome that I receive.  
Boldly I approach my Father,  
clothed in Jesus' righteousness.  
There is no more guilt to carry.  
It was finished upon that cross.

Death was once my great opponent,  
fear once had a hold on me.  
But the Son who died to save us  
rose that we would be free indeed.  
Free from ev'ry plan of darkness,  
free to live and free to love  
Death is dead and Christ is risen.  
It was finished upon that cross.

Onward to eternal glory,  
to my Savior and my God.  
I rejoice in Jesus' vict'ry.  
It was finished upon that cross.

### THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The 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.

**BRINGING OUR BLESSING  
with Thanksgiving in our Offering**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**THE 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.

**† GOD GIVES †**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE DISTRIBUTION  
“I am Trusting You, Lord Jesus”  
(CW 816- big blue binder)**

1-I am trusting you, Lord Jesus, Trusting only you;  
Trusting you for full salvation, Free and true.

2-I am trusting you for pardon; At your feet I bow,  
For your grace and tender mercy Trusting now.

3-I am trusting you for cleansing In the crimson flood;  
Trusting you to make me holy By your blood.

4-I am trusting you to guide me; You alone shall lead,  
Every day and hour supplying All my need.

5-I am trusting you for power; You can never fail;  
Words which you yourself shall give me Must Prevail.

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

“God Love the World So That He Gave”  
(CW 570- big blue binder)

God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

v.2

Christ Jesus is the solid rock of faith  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All who confide in him alone  
Are built on this chief Corner stone.

3- God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh.  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
that we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

4- Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son  
Forgives the sins that you have done.  
You’re justified by Jesus’ blood;  
baptized, you are a child of God.

5. If you are sick, if death is near,  
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;  
this is the anchor of my faith!

6. glory to God the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O Blessed Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!

### THE DISMISSAL

† GOD BLESSES & SENDS US OUT †

### CLOSING SONG “Cornerstone”

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus name

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus name

Christ alone; cornerstone  
Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm, He is Lord  
Lord of all

When Darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone; cornerstone  
Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm, He is Lord

Lord of all

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found;  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless I stand before the throne.

Christ alone; cornerstone  
Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm, He is Lord  
Lord of all

**BLESSING**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

**ALL: Amen**

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**