



Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

10 A.M. Worship

Celebrating the Risen Christ through Acts of Love, Care and Justice

THEME OF THE DAY (YEAR A)

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.

PRELUDE

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Robert J. Powell

TOLLING THE WORSHIP HOUR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water
Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope
in the world: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come
forth to life: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your
sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

God Loved the World

ELW #323

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.

⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For if

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

¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ 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 ACCLAMATION (*ALL sing*)



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

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.

The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter 3:
Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ 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.”

The Gospel of Our Lord
Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Is the Life



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.
who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: KINGSFOLD, English melody

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BOLD WOMEN'S DAY LITANY

One Voice: Made in the image of a bold, beautiful God, we yearn to embody that grace in this world God so loves.

Many: We long to tell our authentic truths, to hear and share stories, to nurture one another and serve God's creation. We crave healing and wholeness for all.

One: But sometimes we are overwhelmed—seduced by what is frivolous, distracted from what is important.

Many: Teach us when to care and when to step aside.

One: We groan for renewal and change yet fear that we are not enough can immobilize us. Guilt and shame provoke us to be overly busy and to hide.

Many: Teach us when to rest and breathe and when to rise to action.

One: Where can we find rest? How can our lives make a meaningful difference?

Many: Teach us when to be silent and still. Teach us when to shout and sing.

One: Remind us you cherish us when we get it right and when we don't.

Many: Embolden us to live fully in the freedom of your indestructible love.

One: Show us the way. Stay with us while we practice and learn. Hold us always.

Many: Amen.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH—APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 THE PEOPLE

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

(after each petition) 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.

We share the peace of Christ with one another.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

(Chancel Choir)

An Instrument of Thy Peace

Debra Scroggins

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

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You may also make your offering via US mail, or at: give.rlcplano.org,

Thank you!



SETTING THE TABLE

Surely God Is My Salvation

3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,
make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the
God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

Refrain
Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!
Sing ho-san - na!
Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!
Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!
Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

Text: Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979, based on Isaiah 12:2-6
Music: YISREAL V'ORAITA, Hasidic melody
Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray...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 these gifts of bread and wine, 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

“It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn :

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows six staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and', 'God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your', 'glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.', 'Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the', 'Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.', and 'Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

LAMB OF GOD

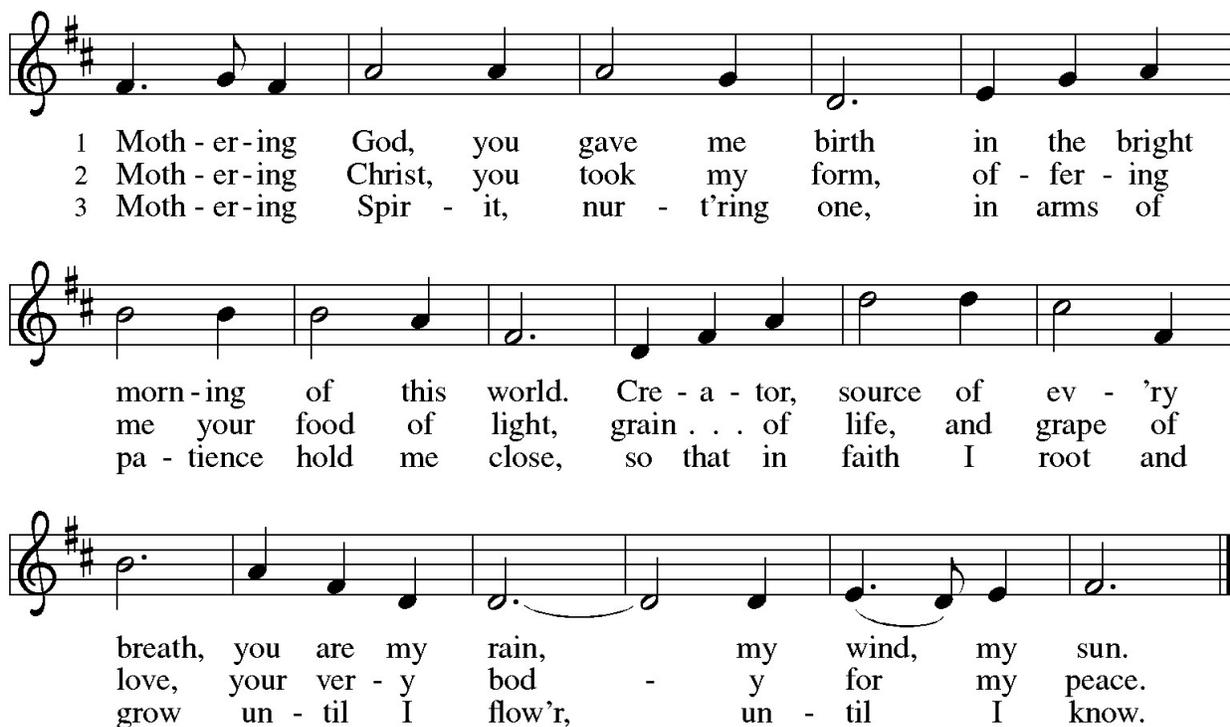


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

ELW #735



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of
morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and
breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413
Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936
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TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray...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.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✝ bless you now and always.

Amen.



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

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.



Resurrection Lutheran Church



Ministers

Pastor [ext. 115]	Rev. William Jon Irons [pastorbill@rlcplano.org]
Office Administrator [ext. 110]	Misti Retan [misti@rlcplano.org]
Director of Children's Ministry and Education [Ext 116]	Betsy Boyd [betsy@rlcplano.org]
Director of Youth Ministry [ext. 118]	Ann Loeffler [ann@rlcplano.org]
Director of Worship & Music [ext. 114]	Jim Loeffler [jim@rlcplano.org]

Volunteer Staff & Leadership

Council President	Kathy Barrett [kwbarret@verizon.net]
Council Vice President	Karen Oehler [kloehler@gmail.com]
Council Secretary	Beth Smith [fraubeth@att.net]
Council Treasurer	Jan Frum [jlfrum@verizon.net]
Liaison for Worship	Craig Hildebrand [cehilde1@gmail.com]
Liaison for Witness	Marylou Boardman [g777879@yahoo.com]
Liaison for Learn	Katherine Bandy [kmbmilton@gmail.com]
Liaison for Serve	Sharon Bosse [lemonade@GTE.net]
Liaison for Ancillary Ministries	Jay Walls [Jay.walls@yahoo.com]
Liaison for Support / Facility Supervision	Mark Waterman [mvwaterman@sbcglobal.net]
Butterfliier Editor (Newsletter)	Rita Fischer [nygiantfan2@verizon.net]
School Supply Project	info@theschoolsupplyproject.org
AM's & Acolyte Coordinator	Lynn Waterman [joyfullynn@sbcglobal.net]
Altar Guild & Flowers	Jan Frum [jlfrum@verizon.net]

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