

**Second Sunday in Lent  
March 1, 2026  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church**



**WELCOME**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Jesus, Keep me Near the Cross*

#335

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**We confess to you, most loving God,  
the sins that both bind and scatter us.**

**We have knowingly believed dishonest words.**

**We have questioned your gracious power again and again.**

**We have given into temptation.**

**We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.**

**In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.**

**Gather us back to you.**

**Forgive us, free us, and make us whole**

**for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Friends, beloved of God,

Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.

In the name of + Christ your sins are forgiven.

May God unbind your guilt and shame,

lead you by the Spirit,

and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.

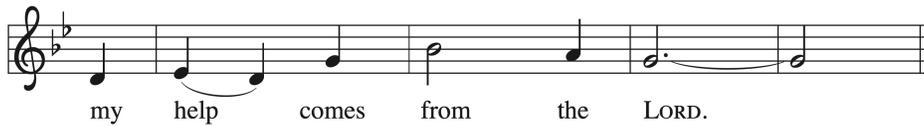
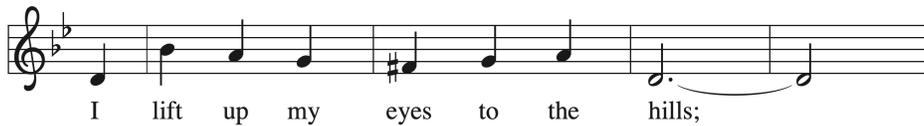
**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Living God, we come looking for signs of your heavenly kingdom. When certainty binds our spirits, astonish us and confound our expectations. Bring us through water and Spirit to trust that you speak of what you know. Birth us into the mystery that you desire to give all eternal life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## PSALM: Psalm 121



<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep; R**

<sup>5</sup> the Lord watches over you;

the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore. R**

## SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

<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.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#210

Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -  
va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

## HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

<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.”

## SERMON

## MUSICAL OFFERING

Suzanne Bowen

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*How Great Thou Art*

#856

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

## OFFERTORY

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

#186



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 to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil;**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### COMMUNION BLESSING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENDING HYMN

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

#543

### THE BLESSING

**May the God of faithful promises, bless and protect you always. Amen.**

### SENDING

Go in peace, forgiven, whole, and free.

**Thanks be to God!**

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