



8 & 10:45 AM

March 1, 2026

2nd Sunday in Lent



CONNECT CARDS

Guests and members, please:

- ♦ fill out a Connect card, or
- ♦ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are in the pew racks in front of you. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

Serving Today...

Message:

Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Liturgist:

8:00 Pastor Ben Oesch

Worship Assistant:

10:45 Don Matern

Organist:

Gail Black

PRAYING
with an
OPEN HEART

Philippians 4:6-7

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

RINGING OF THE BELL *Please quiet voices as we prepare to worship.*

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Divine Service, Setting 1 ~ LSB p. 151; Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the triune God, the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSION OF SINS, WITH THE PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 121; 1 John 1:8-9

P: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

C: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)*

P: The LORD will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. This is how much He loves and cares for you! Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION [FORGIVENESS] OF SINS

Psalm 121; John 20:19-23

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your 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.

C: Amen!

P: The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

C: The LORD will keep our going out and our coming in from this time forth and forevermore!

KYRIE ~ LORD [HAVE MERCY]

Mark 10:47; LSB # 942

P: In the Absolution, God has given us mercy through the merits of Christ Jesus our Lord. We now ask God to give mercy to all, especially to the Church, that we might be His instruments of mercy in the world: Kyrie! God, Father in heaven above, You abound in gracious love, of all things the maker and preserver.

C: Lord, have mercy!

P: Kyrie! O Christ, our king, salvation for all You came to bring. O Lord Jesus, God's own Son, our mediator at the heavenly throne: Hear our cry and grant our supplication.

C: Lord, have mercy!

P: Kyrie! O God the Holy Spirit, guard our faith, the gift we need the most, and bless our life's last hour, that we leave this sinful world with gladness.

C: Lord, have mercy!

ALL: AMEN

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: We pray: O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT *Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may add prayer requests to your information. Thank you!*

Children's Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands.



Easter Cycle:
Season of

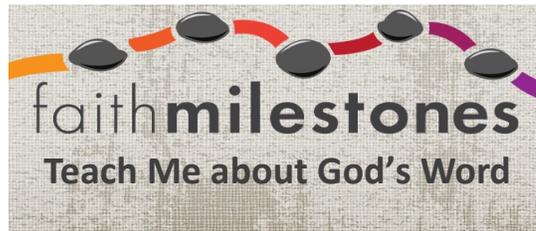


The Hymn of Praise is omitted in Lent; we will raise our Alleluias again at the Resurrection of our Lord!

The Season of Lent is part of the Easter Cycle in the Church Year. Lent is an ancient word meaning: "lengthen"--the lengthening [of daylight hours], interpreted as springtime. Lent is a time to reflect especially on the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times, Lent has been kept by faithful Christians as a 40-day period of special devotion, self-denial, repentance, and giving. Even in this solemn season, we have hope as an anchor for our souls, knowing we have God's Promise that our salvation is already won, our sins are forgiven, and we have the gift of eternal life!

The Law says: Do this; and never is it done.
Grace says: Believe in this One; and everything is already done.

~Martin Luther



FAITH MILESTONE: TEACH ME ABOUT GOD'S WORD Susan Shoaf

Something important is happening here. These families are passing on a legacy of faith as a part of the Faith Milestone Series. We are here today to bless these children and their families as they learn about God's Word, the Bible. The parents attend a class during the Sunday School hour with their children to learn how to use their very own Bibles.

CONGREGATION SPEAKS A BLESSING

P: Shepherd of the Hills, it is our turn to bless these children. You may reach out your hands in blessing as you read the blessing in the worship folder:

C: **Dear children in our family of God, God's Word is a treasure. We bless you to treasure it. Read and obey God's Word. Meet Jesus in God's Word. Blessings in your faith journey. Amen!**

OFFERING AND PRAYER *For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 12:1-9

Now 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. And 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. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he build there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN # 918 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow;

Let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, be Thou still my strength and shield;

Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;

Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.

EPISTLE READING Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather 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 counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."...

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For 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 there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 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.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Please stand.

ACCLAMATION

A: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 3:1-17

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

RESPONSE

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 596 “All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”

Please use the hymnal for the hymn text and lyrics.

MESSAGE “What Does It Mean: Born Again?” text: John 3:1-17

Please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Luther’s Explanation to the 3rd Article of the Apostles’ Creed

P: What is it you believe?

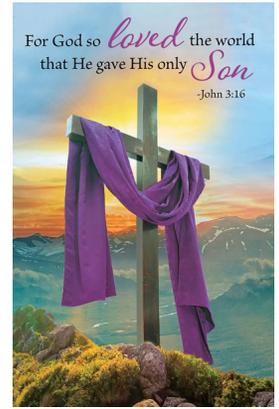
C: **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.**

P: Then where is your hope?

C: **The Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

P: Is this for you only?

C: **In the same way, He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**



To all who did receive Christ, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of the will of God.

~John 1:12-13



Born again: It is not merely that Jesus says one must be born again but born from above. This new birth happens solely from the love and act of God working by the Spirit. Baptismal water is the “womb” through which we are born again and born from above to the life that death cannot overcome and that is eternal.

Journeying through Lent, we are constantly reminded of the truth of Luther’s explanation to the 3rd Article of the Apostles’ Creed: “I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.” The Spirit calls us to the font, delivers us from the darkness of unbelief, and makes holy those who belong to the Lord. Thanks be to God for His gracious gifts to us!

I Am saved
By His Amazing Grace

Ephesians 2:8

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance but laying hold of His willingness.

~Martin Luther

In this Divine Service, by faith the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share the love of Jesus and HIStory!



Lord,
lay some soul
upon my heart
and love that soul
through me;
and may I gladly
do my part
to win that soul
for Thee.
Amen!

P: What else does He do for you and His Church?
C: **In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**
P: Is this grace for this life only?
C: **On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

ALL: **This is most certainly true!**

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *In our March prayers, we Pray with an Open Heart for pre-believers.*

Please stand.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: **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!**

BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C: **Amen!**

Please be seated.

HYMN # 601 "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

**All who believe and are baptized shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ, they are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand among the glorious, heav'nly band
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.**

**With one accord, O God, we pray: grant us Your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may eternal life inherit.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠



This year at Shepherd of the Hills, connecting with our theme of *Praying with an Open Heart*, we will spend Lent evening services studying God's gift of the best prayer outline, *The Lord's Prayer*. Each week will focus on a petition of the prayer, concluding with Easter Sunday.

May this time of study and rededication be a blessing to all of us as we make the Lenten journey and reach its joyous destination: the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Holy Week Worship

- ◆ Palm Sunday | March 29, 8 & 10:45am
- ◆ Maundy Thursday | April 2, 7pm
- ◆ Good Friday Tre-Ore | April 3, 12-3pm
- ◆ Good Friday Tenebrae | April 3, 7pm
- ◆ Easter Sunrise | April 5, 6:30am
- ◆ Resurrection of Our Lord | April 5, 8 & 10:45am

Lent Wednesday Schedule

- ◆ Soup Supper | 5:15pm
- ◆ Quiet Prayer | 6:15pm, Sanctuary
- ◆ Worship | 6:30pm, with Children's Chat

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