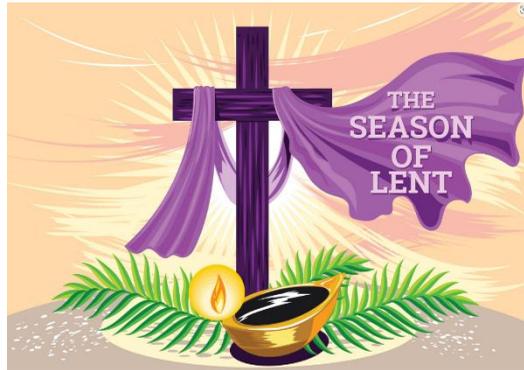


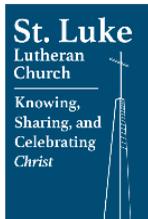
# Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship



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.



**Min. Bobbie Hoffman**

Synod Approved Minister

**Valerie Schlegel**

Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

**Christine Winsor**

Office Administrator

**Congregational Council:**

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## **Music and Copyrights**

March 1, 2026 -Second Sunday in Lent

### **PRELUDE**

Blessed Assurance

Setting J. Bert Carlson ©2001 Augsburg Fortress

### **GATHERING**

ELW 295 – Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent Public Domain.

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW 638 Blessed Assurance

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908 Public Domain

Setting: David Cherwien ©1998 Concordia Publishing House

### **HANDBELL OFFERING**

In the Garden

Janet Van Valley and Susan Berry – Lorenz – © 1988

### **OFFERING SONG**

ELW – 803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (verse 4)

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872 Public Domain

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

God Loved the World

(Rockingham) setting, Christopher Tambling ©2015 Oxford University Press

### **SENDING SONG**

ELW 660 Lift High the Cross

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956 Music: Sydney H. Nicholson,  
1875-1947

### **POSTLUDE**

Trumpet Tune on “Lift High the Cross”

Tune , Sydney Nicholson ©1974 Hope Publishing Co., setting, Janet Linker ©Hope Publishing Co.

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.*

### **PRELUDE**

*Please rise in body or spirit*

### **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.*



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 disdain 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.**

## **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.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

## **Of the Father's Love Begotten**

**ELW 295**

## **Prayer of the Day**

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **A Reading from Genesis 12:1-4a**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."  
<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks Be to God**

## 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;**
- <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.**

*Please rise in body or spirit*

## Gospel Acclamation (To be Sung)

*Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful  
Slow to anger,  
And abounding in steadfast love.*

## **GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to John 3:1-17

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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."

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Blessed Assurance**

**ELW 638**

**CREED**

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth and protect all who labor in service to creation.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of love to any who feels condemned and lift any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love.

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.**

**Handbell Offering**

**In the Garden**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **OFFERING SONG When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (verse 4) ELW 803**

*We present our offering to God during worship as sign of our gratitude for His goodness, mercy & generosity.*

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

*Please rise in body or spirit*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

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.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
With the church on earth and hosts of heaven,  
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*All are welcome to the table. If you will be coming to the altar for communion, please follow the ushers' instructions. Those who are choosing to stay in the pew, using the prefilled cups, and those who need to have the pastor bring the elements to them should wait for instructions from the pastor. Children are most welcome to accompany their parents to the altar for a blessing.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

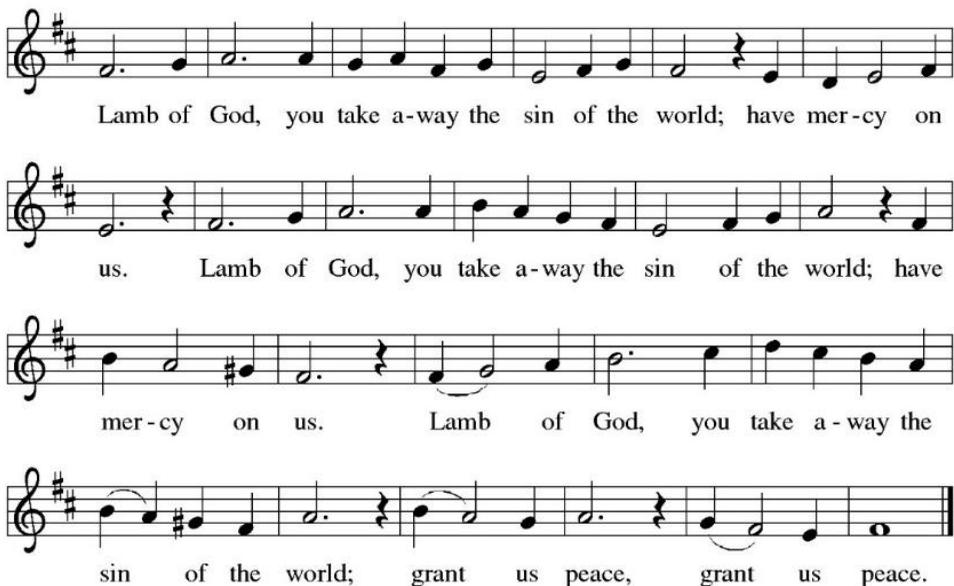
**Give us today our daily bread.**

**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.**

## COMMUNION SONG



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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen**  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you  
in God's grace.

**Amen.**



## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*Please rise in body and spirit.*

### **BLESSING**

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.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

**Lift High, the Cross**

**ELW 660**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**