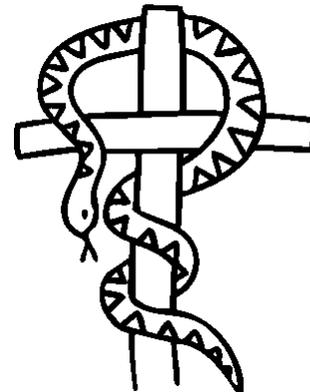


# Faith Lutheran Church

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026



## Introduction

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.

## Gathering

### Gathering Hymn

ELW 448 "This Is the Spirit's Entry Now"

### Confession and Forgiveness

Responses on the screens

### Hymn of Praise

ACS 1084 "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es - en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

### Greeting

### Prayer of the Day

### Children's Sermon & Sunday School

# Word

## **First Reading** Genesis 12:1-4a

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<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 heav- en 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 keep- er of Israel  
will neither slum- ber 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 for- evermore.**

## **Second Reading** Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

*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.*

<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.

*Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.*

*The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.  
Glory to you, O Lord.*

### **Gospel John 3:1-17**

*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.*

<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.”

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

## Sermon & Silent Reflection

### Hymn of the Day

ACS 955 “Come to the Water of Life”



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for  
2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for  
3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for  
4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,  
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,  
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,  
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

### Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

# Meal

## Peace

## Offering

*"For Jesus, the quality of the gift is not how large it is, but the proportion you give and the heart with which you give it." There are many options for giving including plate giving, text to give (833-686-4752) or through our website.*



## Offertory Hymn

ACS 1068 "The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe" VERSES 1 & 3

1 The earth a - dorned in ver - dant robe sends prais - es  
2 From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its  
3 O God, a - mid these joys of life, cre - a - tion's

up - ward surg - ing, while soft winds breathe on fra - grant  
song now rais - es, to join with all the u - ni -  
glo - ry beam - ing, grant us the grace to keep your

flow'rs from win - ter now e - merg - ing. The sun - shine  
verse in voic - ing thank - ful prais - es. With hope and  
word and live in love re - deem - ing. All flesh is

bright gives warmth and light to bud - ding blos - soms ten -  
joy their songs em - ploy a rap - turous ex - ul - ta -  
grass, the flow - ers fade, and time is fleet - ing ev -

der, pro - claim - ing sum - mer splen - dor.  
tion in praise of God's cre - a - tion.  
er; God's word re - mains for - ev - er.

## Offering Prayer

## Holy Communion



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Holy, Holy, Holy



The musical notation consists of five staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

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

## 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.

### **Lamb of God**

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

### **Distribution Hymn**

*ELW 683 "Blessed Assurance"*

### **Prayer after Communion**

## **Sending**

### **Blessing**

### **Dismissal**

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

*Faith Lutheran Church is a community living in God's love which embraces and welcomes every person as part of God's Beloved Community. We celebrate each person created in God's image as we strive for justice, peace, and racial equity in our community and the wider world. We openly welcome and affirm all persons of every race, age, socioeconomic class, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, marital and family status, background, and experience. We seek to live as a community of God's people that values each person's voice, gifts, and full participation in all areas of the congregation's life and worship. We embrace the work of the Holy Spirit moving in and through us as we care for the earth and all of God's people.*

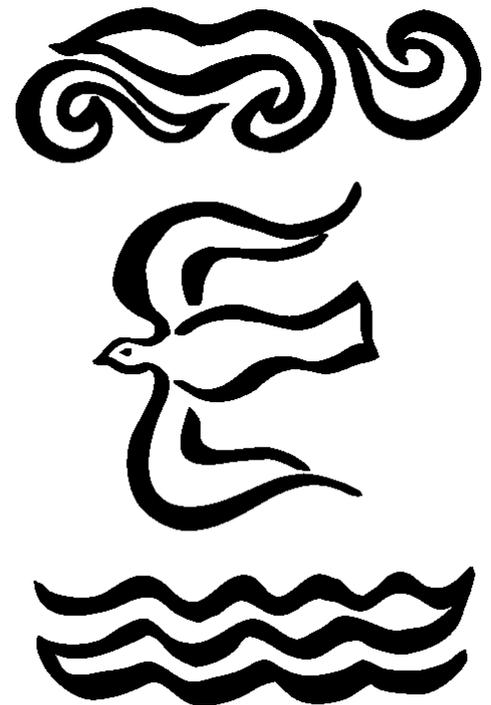
## **FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE**

**Gathered as a community living in God's love we serve all people, care for the earth and embrace the work of the Holy Spirit.**

*Faith Lutheran Church will be recognized as a community of spiritual growth, a place of acceptance and inclusion, a gateway for environmental stewardship, a creator of partnerships and an advocate for social justice and peace.*

### **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP** this Sunday includes:

Presiding	<i>Rev. John C. Norquist</i>
Organist/ Pianist	<i>Stephen V. Hibbard</i>
Reader	<i>Vonna Pitel</i>
Communion Assistant	
Cup Deacons	<i>Tom Schoofs</i>
Sunday School Instructor(s)	<i>Tom Schoofs</i>
Greeter	<i>Donna Fowler</i>
Ushers	
Communion Set-up	<i>Dottie Dorr, Linda O'Leary &amp; Cory Schoofs</i>
Live Stream	



### ***March Mission of the Month: Reformation Lutheran Church***

***Easter Lily:*** Make sure to place your order today for your lily! Lilies cost \$10 and the deadline to place your order is Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Order box is in the narthex or in the education center. See Dottie Dorr for more information.

*Bulletins:* You might have noticed a change in the bulletin and amount printed. Any thoughts? Have suggestions on a new format? See Tom.

## **A New Thing Is Underway**

“How can anyone be born after having grown old?” asks Nicodemus (John 3:4), articulating a question that we as the church continue to ask today. Change is hard. Transformation seems impossible. And yet, Jesus responds that in baptism we are made as new as if we had been born again, with a new heart able to perceive the reign of God. All things are possible with God!

Nicodemus is justifiably perplexed by this proclamation. We may resonate with his confusion as we look at the world around us and in the mirror before us, wondering if anything can ever truly change. Can the violence and suffering of war ever truly end? Can this broken relationship be mended? Can this illness be healed? Can hatred, oppression, and abuse be thwarted, transformed by the power of love? When we look around us, change may seem in short supply.

And yet, when we get curious, we may also become aware of signs of change, transformation, and rebirth emerging all around us. In northern regions, we can see the melting snow and first shoots of green from rousing plants, signaling the change from winter to spring. We can see mutual aid networks, community care efforts, and collective action emerge in response to social and political chaos. We can sense the tug of the Holy Spirit on our hearts, calling us toward deeper humility, compassion, and solidarity as we live in the hope of Christ.

The Lenten call—to set down what we can to attend more fully to God—draws us into a posture of curiosity that may deepen our awareness of the small but potent ways God’s kingdom is already breaking in all around us. “Do not be astonished,” says Jesus (v. 7); a new thing is underway.

### **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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