

Second Sunday in Lent – March 1, 2026  
10 a.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

**Welcome Friends and Guests:** 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.

**Serving this Sunday:**

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Becky McNeil & Cheryl Leef  
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Mark Nelson  
Ushers – Jody Alford & Cheryl Leef  
Communion – Lisa & John Rygiel



**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

**Worship & Music:** In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to learn more about us. *Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. We use both the cranberry book of Worship and the purple *All Creation Sings* hymnals as indicated in the bulletin.

**Communion:** We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

**Other:** Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall; our ushers can direct you.

**Fellowship:** Please join us after worship today for our first Sunday Potluck in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

***Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.***

~Gathering~

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

**Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship**

Loving God, You have always led Your people to places where they can hear Your voice, **speaK Lord, and help us to listen.**

Loving God, You ask nothing of us, but faith and openness to You, **help us to follow You in trust.**

Lord Jesus, You came that we could live in friendship and fellowship with You, **be near us Lord, and help us to receive You.**

**Confession & Forgiveness**

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silent Reflection

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism...To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: #335 (cranberry hymnal) Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Creator God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also, with you.**

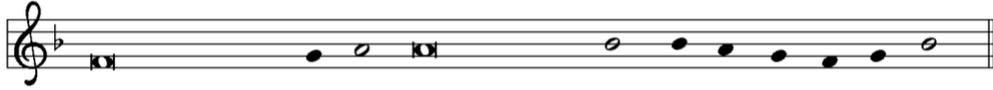
**Kyrie** (next page)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



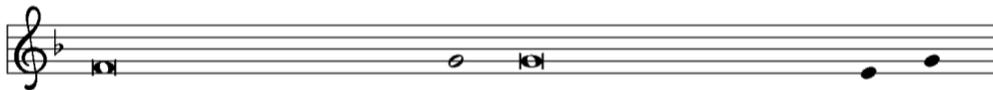
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



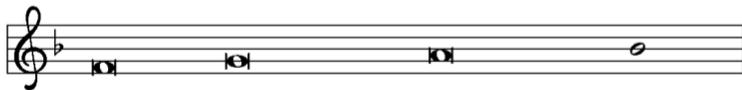
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

## **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you. **And, also with you.**

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.**

~Word~

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

### **First Reading: 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsive Reading: 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 for evermore.**

### **Second 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:**



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

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

The holy gospel according to John chapter three.

**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.”

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

**Sermon:** Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #1085 (purple hymnal) Hope of the World

### 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.

### Prayers of the People

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages including *George Herbert whom the church remembers today*, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. We lift our eyes to You, **Our helper and our strength.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Provide much-needed precipitation to parched areas of the earth, including for us in Southern Colorado. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. We lift our eyes to You, **Our helper and our strength.**

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. We lift our eyes to You, **Our helper and our strength.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, especially...We lift our eyes to You, **Our helper and our strength.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere especially our brethren at First United Methodist Church. We lift our eyes to You, **Our helper and our strength.**

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. We lift our eyes to You, **Our helper and our strength.**

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

### Peace

The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

~Meal~

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### Offering

*As evident through all of creation,  
God has given freely to us as we freely give now.*

*You can give via check or cash, by mail to 510 Pine Street, or online at:  
[https://tithely.com/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741](https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741).*

**Offertory: #599** (cranberry hymnal) Lord Jesus Think of Me, vs. 2

**Offering Prayer**

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these 40 days...Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

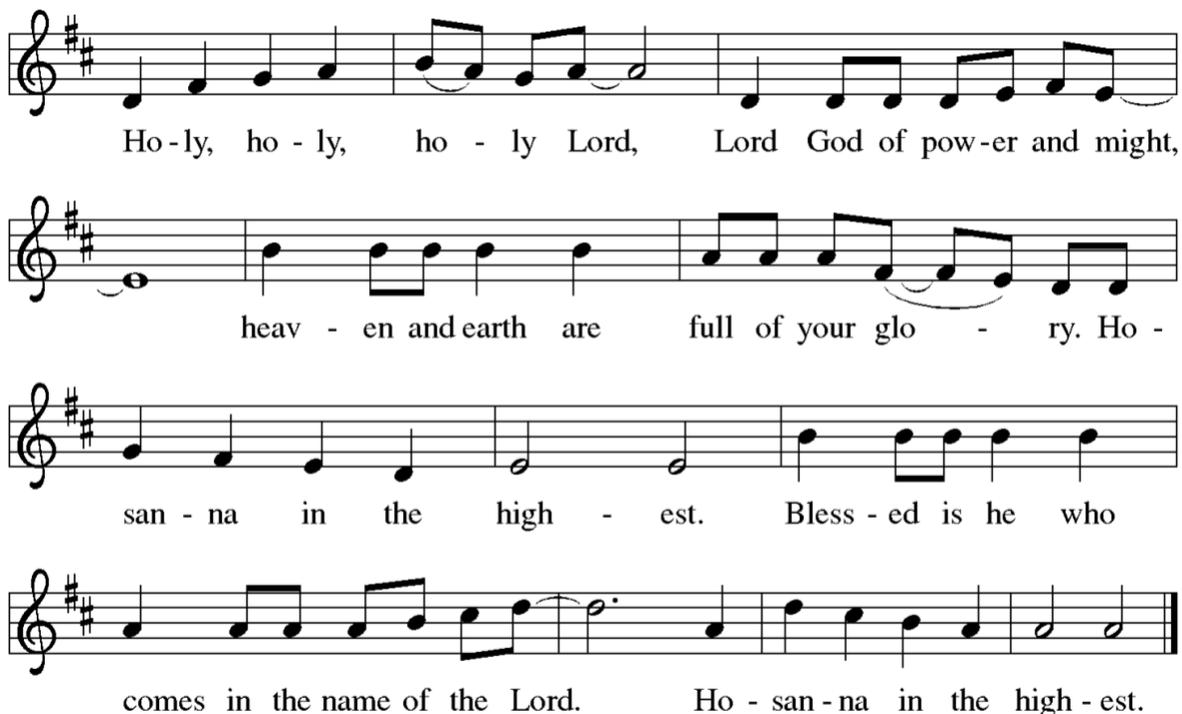
The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

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.**

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

**Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en 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**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age... With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

**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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

*God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.*

*Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.*

*Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available. God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness.*

*Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation.*

**Communion Hymn: #666 (cranberry hymnal) What Wondrous Love is This**

**Communion Song: 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 Prayer**

**Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

~Sending~

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

## **Announcements & Special Blessing**

### **Benediction**

Just as God's Word was sent into the world to heal and redeem, so God sends you into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope. Go now to be light for the world! And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day ☩ and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn: #638 (cranberry hymnal) Blessed Assurance**



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

#### *Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to seek justice for all people. **Thanks be to God.**

~Announcements~

- + **Fellowship:** Join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for our First Sunday Potluck. All are welcome.
- + **Wednesday Book Club:** The Wednesday Book Club focusing upon *What if Jesus was Serious – A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore* meets at 10:30 each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.
- + **Lenten Greenery:** During Lent Zion's will opt for green foliage instead of flowers to reflect the austerity and simplicity of the season. We know that some people want to sponsor flowers even during Lent. Prayerfully consider instead another option: select a Sunday after Lent, help sponsor flowers on Easter Sunday, or donate to one of our many ministries and missions, in the name of the person or event that flowers would have recognized.
- + **Children's Choir Resumes:** Children's choir practice is at 3 p.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.
- + **Lenten Soup Suppers:** At 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent, Zion's will share a soup supper and devotion. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall to bring soup, bread, beverages, or dessert. Our next soup supper is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 4.
- + **Time of Prayer and Coffee:** The Zion's family is invited to join our siblings in Christ from the Methodist church for a time of prayer and coffee at 10:30 a.m. each Thursday at Kangaroo Coffee -- in the Marketplace on Commercial Street.
- + **5-Loaves Volunteers Needed:** Thank you to everyone who helped with 5-Loaves preparation and delivery this weekend. Our next 5-Loaves deliveries will be March 27-28.
- + **God's Work Our Hands:** Terri Watson continues to identify members of our congregation who are willing to help our siblings in Christ with basic assistance, such as rides and errands. Terri has sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall, which help her to match individual needs with people who can assist. For more information talk to Terri.
- + **The Way Ministry:** At 1 p.m. each Sunday through March 29, Zion's welcomes The Way ministry to our Fellowship Hall as they offer food and worship to those in need.
- + **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, call Pastor Lisa at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com.

Serving on Sunday March 8

Worship: Pastor Robert Hoenike, Julie Wersal & Coralie Lashbrook

Music: Connie Pallone & Beckie McNeil

Usher: Mary McKenna & Cherie Holder

Communion: T.M. Garner & Terri Watson

Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at: [zionsluth.org](http://zionsluth.org).

~Prayers~

<sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.

<sup>21</sup> Our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name.

<sup>22</sup> Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.”

-- Psalm 33:20-22

Creator God, may these forty days of Lent teach us to embrace humility and to trust that you walk with us, making all things new. Let our church be a living sign of your grace and hope for all who suffer. Empower us to help protect the most vulnerable – the disenfranchised, the poor, the displaced, the refugee, the aged, and the children. Strengthen all who labor for justice, healing, and reconciliation. Protect all who stand in solidarity and support for the oppressed and the threatened and those who are targets censorship or silencing. Be with those affected by natural and human-caused disasters.

Comfort those whose loved ones suffer or have passed including: the Randy’s family and his fellow parishioners at Akron Presbyterian Church. Embrace the McNeil’s granddaughter Leila on her first birthday and grant restoration of relationships for the entire family.

We give thanks for our church members who are returning to health and pray for those who await test results. We also pray for: Suzanne Lintner, Richard Stewart, Danielle Hix, Ed Blount, Darlene Sanstead, Jan Ratliff, Terry & Doris Blalock, Joni Jones, Margaret Gumke, Sherry Gartside, Carolyn Broman, Mary Ann Ghella, and Jill Wilson. We pray for Erin’s son Woody, for Cherie’s son Zack and granddaughter Charley, Brittany’s mom Ruth, Charlotte’s cousin Mark McFall, Destiny, Paul Rygiel, Richard Zey, Starr, Jay Nesbitt, Scott Stauffer, and Brynna Ogletree.

We pray for those facing cancer: Mike Blackmore, Liza Baseler, Cherie’s friend Brandy, Becky’s friend Kerry Acker, Pr. Lew Champ, Erin’s brother-in-law David and friend Karen O’Neil, Linda Bounds, Norine’s son Randal, Pr. Kevin Olson, and Lynn’s friend Rick Barian.

And we continue to lift the missions of this church and pray for ELCA Bishop Curry and Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Meghan and for clergy everywhere who advocate for mercy, justice and inclusion. We raise prayers for Wal-reat (missionary in Sudan), Pastor Clay & Mary Mason and the Way Ministry, ACTS ministry, the Minna Hope Foundation (Jangaru Mission) in Nigeria, and the prison congregation New Beginnings and its pastor Samm Melton-Hill.

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Call to Worship and Intercessory Prayer Response: from The Church of Scotland – 1 March Second Sunday of Lent – Year A, at <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/weekly-worship-2026-march/1-march-second-sunday-in-lent-year-a> © The Church Of Scotland, 2025. All Rights Reserve.

Benediction/Sending (adapted): from *“O Merciful God: God of Wisdom: Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Lent,”* written by Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey and the Rev. Susan A. Blain. Posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways website.