

Order of Worship  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

March 1, 2026



*<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.*

*John 3:17*

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**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.

\*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.*

Have mercy, O God,  
**against you, you alone,**  
**we have sinned.**  
**In your compassion,**  
**cleanse us from our sin**  
**and take away our guilt.**  
**Create in us a new heart**  
**and give us a steadfast spirit.**  
**Do not cast us away,**  
**but fill us with your Holy Spirit**  
**and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child,  
so deep is God's compassion for you.  
As high as heaven is above earth,  
so vast is God's love for you.  
As far as east is from west, †  
so far God removes your sin from you,  
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.  
Blessed be God who crowns us  
with mercy and love.  
**Blessed be God forever.**



1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,  
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,  
 3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,  
 4 Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us  
 5 Hope of the world, Christ ris'n from death vic - to - rious,



Speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.  
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:  
 show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light:  
 from death and deep de - spair, from guilt and sin:  
 who by this tri - umph con - quered grief and pain:



Save us, your peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,  
 still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en  
 walk close be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways  
 we ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;  
 we would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.  
 to heal earth's wounds and end all bit - ter strife.  
 lure us a - way from you to end - less night.  
 work through our lives to bring your pur - pose in.  
 you are our Lord and will for - ev - er reign!

**\*APOSTOLIC 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.**

**\* KYRIE**

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together:

**O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us new birth, and new life as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

**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.**

**PSALM 121** (*We will read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.*)

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

from does my help come from?

<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.**

**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.

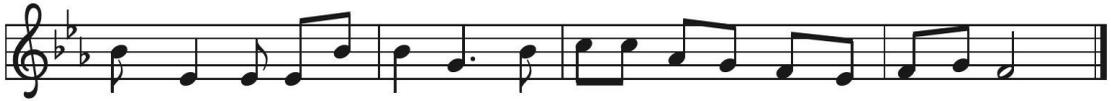
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel.*



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**John 3:1-17**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter:  
**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**

**The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



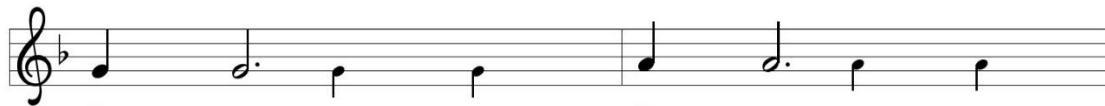
Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!



Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!



Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for - ev - er - more!



1	Drown	us.	Drown	us.	Raise	us.	Raise	us.
2	Name	us.	Name	us.	Heal	us.	Heal	us.



Mark	us.	Mark	us.	Claim	us!	Claim	us!
Wash	us.	Wash	us.	Seal	us!	Seal	us!

*Refrain*

## \*APOSTLE'S CREED

We now profess the faith we share 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.**

## \*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 like George Herbert, whom the church remembers today, 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 conservationists, scientists, and 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 acceptance to those who feel condemned and lift up everyone brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, *especially for Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Willah, Ann, Julie, Christen, Carol, Anne, Judy, Jeff, Gloria, Brian, James & Grace, Katie, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Scott, Lynda, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Avery, Dean, John, Abby, Mike, Tim, Arleen & Richard, Betty, Linda, Henry, Glenn, Gary, Connie, Greg, Beverly & Ray, Helen & Ron, Phyllis, and Max.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. We rejoice with the family of Jon and Sandra Thiele at the birth of their new granddaughter, Isabella. Thank you also for our beloved ones 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.**

### **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

*It Is Well With My Soul*

Bliss

**\*OFFERING SONG**

*Create in Me*

ELW s.186



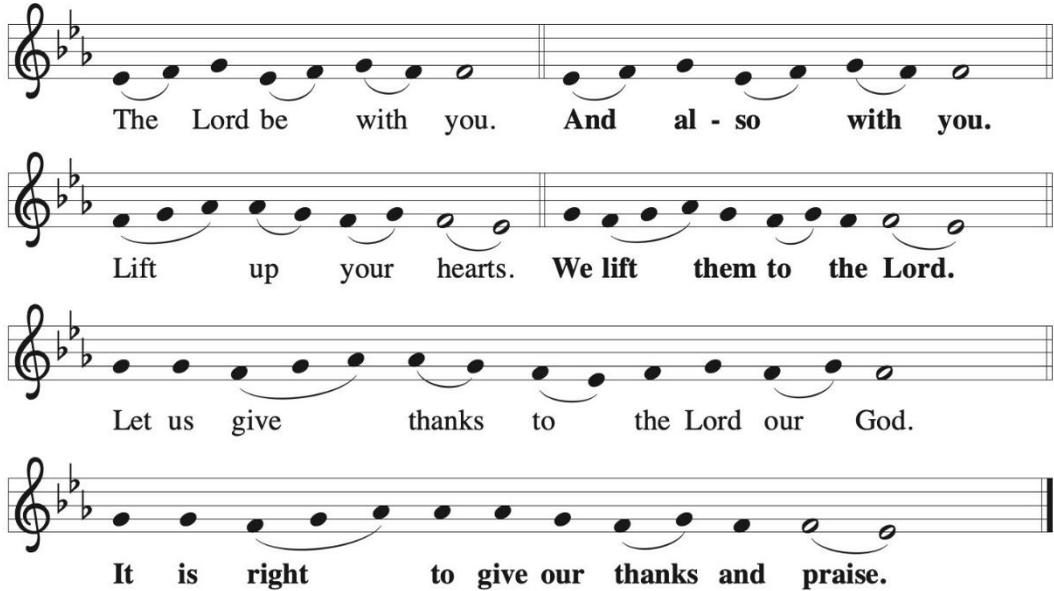
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is sure.  
Word and water, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us  
to proclaim your abiding love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ,  
our strength and our song.  
**Amen.**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

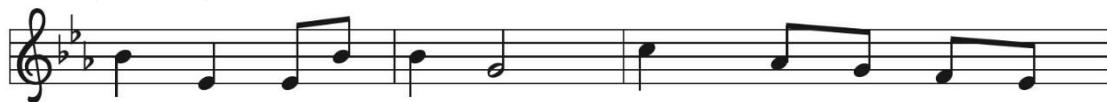


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### \*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 the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



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



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying:  
Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,  
granting them life and calling them to flourish:

Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to the Hebrew people,  
blessing them as a family to outnumber the stars  
and calling them to be a blessing to others,  
showing them steadfast love in every generation  
and calling us to be a light to the nations.

Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,  
grafting us into your living Vine,  
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

In the night in which he was handed over,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks.  
He 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.”

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

## **\*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**

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

## **COMMUNION**

The baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the communion rail where we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Gluten free bread and grape juice are available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and Pastor will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. You may wish to remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.

## 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 HYMN(S)

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*  
*In the Singing*  
*(Next pages)*

ELW 803  
ELW 466

# When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

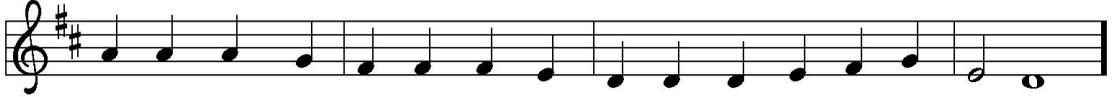
1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,  
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

### **\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Living God, as the disciples ate and drank  
with their risen Lord,  
we have been nourished  
with the very presence of Christ.**

**Through this meal, may we be strengthened  
to keep your word  
and to proclaim the power of your love  
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN

*God Loved the World*

ELW 323

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

**\*BENEDICTION**

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.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Lift High the Cross*

arr. Charles W. Ore

## PERMISSIONS

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