

# Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026; 9 a.m.



**St John's**  
Lutheran Church

*(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*(Acolytes light the candles)*

Linda Ranney

### Invocation

We gather in the name of God, who created us,  
who was born to be with us, + who guides us still.

**Amen.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

God knows our hearts, the guilt we carry, the heartache that keeps us awake,  
the burdens we bear. God knows that “happy are they who are forgiven,”  
and so, we confess in confidence of God’s forgiveness.

*(A brief silence)*

Good and gracious God,

**We have sinned**

**and fallen short of the good you desire for us  
and for all creation.**

**We have seen the earth as resources to extract  
and forgotten to marvel at its beauty.**

**We have doubted your ability to provide  
and hoarded more than we need.**

**We have ignored the needs of the vulnerable,  
and when you called us to follow you to greater wonders,  
we remained where we were and clung to control.**

**Forgive our sin and our selfishness.**

**Draw us out of ourselves,  
more deeply into your love,  
and more fully into a world in need.**

God knows our sin before we do  
 and meets every confession with abundant grace.  
 In Christ we are alive and completely forgiven.  
 God's goodness has the final word.  
 May this gift renew our faith and lighten our load  
 so we are prepared to care for the world God so loves.  
**Amen.**

## Kyrie

From *No Greater Love Mass* by Michael Joncas

*(Cantors sing verses)*

- 1 You were sent to heal the contrite. You came to call sinners. You plead for us at the right hand of the Father. Kyrie eleison.

*Refrain: (All)*



1. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 2. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.  
 3. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e,  
 Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste,  
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e,



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 Chri - ste e - le - i - son.  
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

- 2 You raise the dead to life in the Spirit. You bring pardon and peace to the sinner. You bring light to those in darkness. *Christe eleison. Refrain*
- 3 You reconcile us to God and one another. You heal the wounds of sin and division. You intercede for us with your Father. *Kyrie eleison. Refrain*

## 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.**

## Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a *(please sit)*

<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.**

## 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.

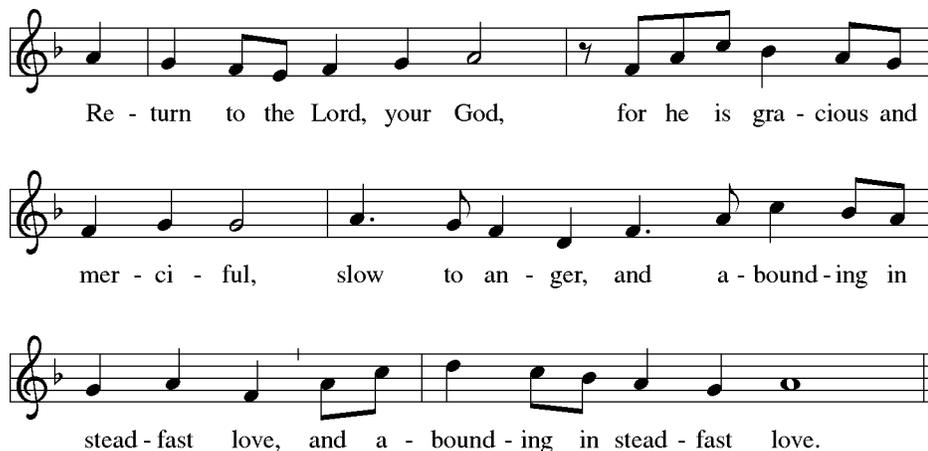
Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children’s Time

### Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

ELW Setting 3



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### 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** *(please sit)*

*"Nick at Night"* Pastor Christine Emerson

### **Hymn of the Day** *(please stand)*

ELW #335; *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* vs. 1-3

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

#### *Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day  
with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

## 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

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

## The Peace

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

## Offering

*(Ushers take up the collection)*

*My Song is Love Unknown*

text by Samuel Crossman c. 1624-1683, alt. Music by John Ireland

St. John's Choir

*(assembly join in singing verse 6)*

- 6 Here might I stay and sing—  
 no story so divine!  
 Never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend!

## Offertory *(please stand)*

*(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)*

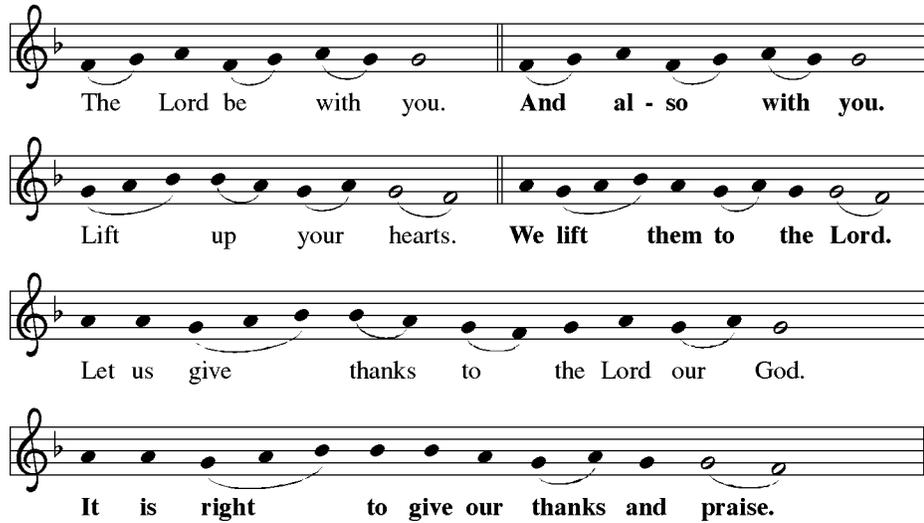
ELW #188; *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
 and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God who provides,  
**we return to you a portion of all that you have given us.**  
**Bless and use these gifts,**  
**our hands, our hearts, our ministry,**  
**to care for the world you so love.**  
**Now prepare us to receive you at this table**  
**and in the world beyond our doors.**  
**In Jesus' name we pray.**  
**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

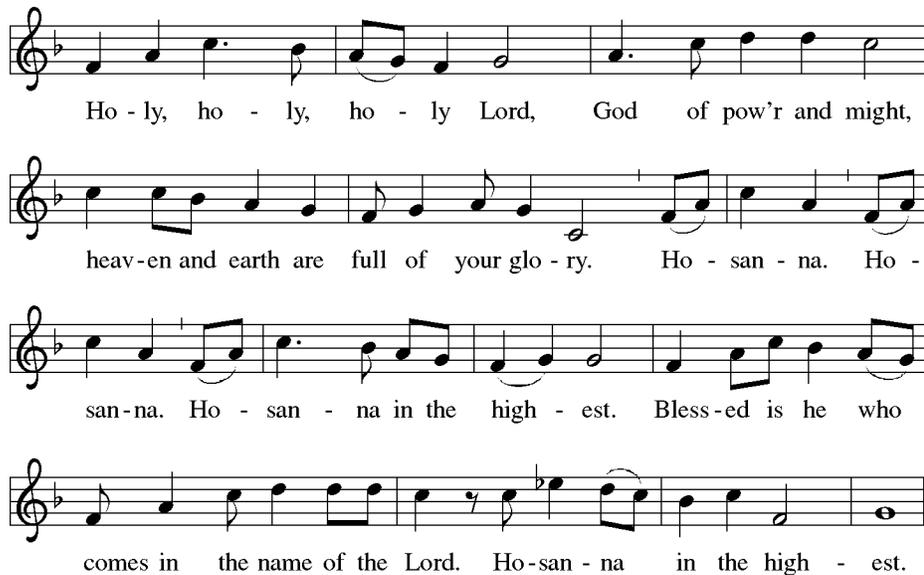
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

### Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting 3



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Invitation to the Table

*(Acolytes prepare for communion distribution; ushers come forward to invite assembly by pew. Greeters will guide those wishing to receive at the altar: stop at credence table for a cup, then walk up side steps into the chancel)*

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

## Lamb of God

ELW Setting 3

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.

## Communion Hymn

ELW #451; *We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus*

- 1 We are baptized in Christ Jesus,  
we are baptized in his death;  
that as Christ is raised victorious,  
we might live a brand new life.  
And if we have been united  
in a dreadful death like his,  
we will all be reunited, for he lives.

- 2 In the water and the witness,  
in the breaking of the bread,  
in the waiting arms of Jesus  
who is risen from the dead,  
God has made a new beginning  
from the ashes of our past;  
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.
- 3 Glory be to God the Father,  
glory be to Christ the Son,  
glory to the Holy Spirit,  
ever three and ever one;  
as it was in the beginning,  
glory now resounds again  
in a song that has no ending. Amen

### **Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer** *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God, **you have revealed yourself to us again in the holy mystery of bread and cup. Strengthen us by your presence, draw us closer to one another as the Body of Christ, and send us to reveal you in our all our words and ways. Amen.**

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and + grant you peace.

**Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

*(Acolytes extinguish the candles)*

ACS #1084; *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

- 1 God, be the love to search and keep me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me:

*Refrain*

O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

- 2 Bind to myself the name of Holy,  
great cloud of witnesses enfold;  
prophets, apostles, angels witness: *Refrain*
- 4 Walking behind to hem my journey,  
going ahead to light my way,  
and from beneath, above, and all ways: *Refrain*
- 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me,  
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,  
Christ in the hearts of all who know me: *Refrain*

## **Sending**

Go in peace. Go all in for the unknown.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

Linda Ranney

## **Altar Flowers**

## **Chancel Flowers**

## **Serving at Worship Today**

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Cora Klawiter
Lector	Madeline Lee
Acolytes	Elise Wallin, Gwyneth Wallin
Ushers	Brian Wagner, Bryan Sedlander
Greeters	Mike Torud, Norb Kirk

Communion Servers	Eric Nielsen, Ramona Sedlander, Cheryl Mattison, Pam Sorebo, Diana Hogenson
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Maxx Christopherson
Musicians	Linda Ranney, piano/organ; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir, Frank Larrabee, recorder

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