

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 1, 2026

***Please respect the sanctity of worship and turn off all cell phones.
Thank you.***

For the Gathered

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.

Greeting – ELW 147

(Pastor) - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(All) - And also with you.

(All who are able may stand.)

Gathering Song - What Wondrous Love Is This – ELW 666 (vs. 1, 3, & 4)

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Confession and Forgiveness – ELW 95

(Pastor)

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.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

Kyrie

(Liturgist) In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

(All Sing) Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison, eleison.

For peace between nations, faithfulness in the Church, the healing of creation, let us pray,

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison, eleison.

For those who seek the light, those who thirst for mercy, and all who long for God, let us pray,

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison, eleison

For those who are hungry, grieving or in pain, abandoned or afraid, let us pray,

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison, eleison

Help, save, comfort and defend us oh God,

Amen.

Canticle of Praise – ELW 148

(Liturgist) – Glory to God in the highest and peace to God’s people on earth.

(ALL SING) Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God, and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world - have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father – receive our prayer, for you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High – Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

(Assembly may be seated.)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

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.

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ 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."

^{4a} 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

¹ I lift up my eyes ¹ to the hills;
from where is my ¹ help to come?

² My help comes ¹ from the LORD,
the maker of heav- ¹ en and earth.

³ The LORD will not let your ¹ foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you ¹ fall asleep.

⁴ Behold, the keep- ¹ er of Israel
will neither slum- ¹ ber nor sleep;

⁵ the LORD watches ¹ over you;
the LORD is your shade at ¹ your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not strike ¹ you by day,
nor the ¹ moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will preserve you ¹ from all evil
and will ¹ keep your life.

⁸ The LORD will watch over your going out and your ¹ coming in,
from this time forth for- ¹ evermore.

Epistle 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.

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ 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.

Message for the Young at Heart

Passing of the Peace

Special Music

Gospel Announcement – John 3: 1-17

(All who are able may stand.)

Acclamation – ELW 151

**(ALL SING) - Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² 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." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

⁴ 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?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to

you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ 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." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "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. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "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.

¹⁷ "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.

(Assembly may be seated.)

Message

(All who are able may stand.)

Hymn of the Day – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less – ELW 596 (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

Apostles' Creed – ELW 105

**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.**

(Assembly may be seated.)

Prayers of Intercession

Response

(Liturgist) – Hear us, O God.

(All) –Your mercy is great.

Offering

Offertory - We Are An Offering – W&P 146

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
We are an offering.

Prayer

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving – ELW 152

(PASTOR) - The Lord be with you.

(ALL) - **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.

Pastor's 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:

Our Response – ELW 153

(ALL SING) - **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer – ELW 154

(ALL) - **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.**

Words of Institution

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.

Confession Song – Lamb of God – ELW 154

**(ALL SING) –
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Grant us peace. Grant us peace.**

Distribution

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.
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.

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

(All who are able may stand.)

Sending Song – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – ELW 803 (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

(Assembly may be seated.)

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

(ALL) - Thanks be to God.

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Second Sunday in Lent – March 1, 2026

PASTOR	John Russell-Curry
GREETER	Chris Love
READER/ASSISTING MINISTER	Tim Shaw
USHERS	David Bettis
ORGANIST/PIANIST	Martin Hansen

This Week

TODAY	10 AM Worship
	After Service Lenten Bible Study
FRIDAY	2 PM Knitting Club
SATURDAY	9 AM Church Clean-up

Readings for Sunday, March 8

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans :1-11; John 4:5-42

Attendance for last week 30 and via Zoom 5

Upcoming Events – Mark your Calendar

March 8 Worship Service
March 8 Lenten Bible Study
March 13 Knitting Club
March 15 Worship Service

Prayers for healing:

Tom Stephens; Gleneda Mural; Dorothy Woody; Rosie Sullivan; Eric Smith; Gleneda Mural's niece, Shereida; Nan Dailey; Kimberly Castillo's daughter Jillian and mother-in-law Lupe; Pam Andersen; Pastor John Russell-Curry and his family; Warren Westerberg; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; Annie Sofranek; David Cherf; and people who are ill around the world.

We lift prayers for our Benevolence of the Month, **Love, INC** and for our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop, **Jeff Johnson**.