



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 1, 2026

Historically, the season of Lent is a time of study and preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel, Jesus of Nazareth tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. We are given a new birth at the font as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in Holy Baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. We are sent forth from worship to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Prelude

Dorian Chorale

Jehan Alain
(1911-1940)

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

(The confession is led from the baptismal font as a reminder that repentance is a return to baptism.)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

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

silence for reflection

P: God of steadfast love,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from your ways. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to forgive those who have sinned against us. Have mercy on us, create in us new hearts, and restore to us the joy of your salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

C: **Amen**

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, early American

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Lent because of the penitential nature of the season.)

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

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

P: Let us pray.

ALL: **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 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - 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.

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. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I 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."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

(sung in unison)

This is a song of trust in the Lord, the unsleeping guardian of Israel.

I lift up my eyes | to the hills;*
from where is my | help to come?
²My help comes | from the LORD,*
the maker of heav- | en and earth.
³He will not let your | foot be moved*
and he who watches over you will not | fall asleep.
⁴Behold, he who keeps watch | over Israel*
shall neither slum- | ber nor sleep;
⁵the LORD himself watches | over you;*
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand,
⁶so that the sun shall not strike | you by day,*
nor the | moon by night.
⁷The LORD shall preserve you | from all evil;*
it is he who shall | keep you safe.
⁸The LORD shall watch over your going out and your | coming in,*
from this time forth for- | evermore.

Second Lesson - 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.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For 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. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Verse



The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (R)

Holy Gospel - John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

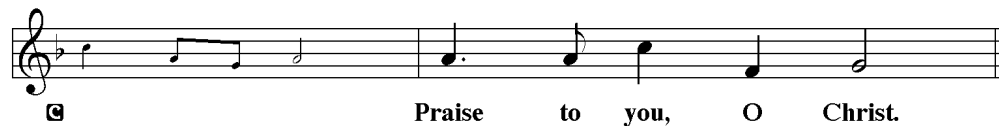


*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus of Nazareth by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject.
Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He 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 apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus 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?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The 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." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."



P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

- 1 God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son, the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer;
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
that is the firmest ground of faith.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives all sins which you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood,
your baptism grants the highest good.

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.

The Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we believe:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The Prayers

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: Faithful God, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of artists and musicians throughout the ages, give your Church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Help us preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

- A: Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Help us declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. May we tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- A: Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this congregation and accompany those who have moved away to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- A: 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. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ALL: **Amen**

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering

Offertory Anthem

I Lift My Eyes Unto the Hills

Mark Schweizer
(1956-2019)

*I lift my eyes unto the hills; from whence cometh my help?
My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
(Psalm 121:1-2)*

Offertory

Unison

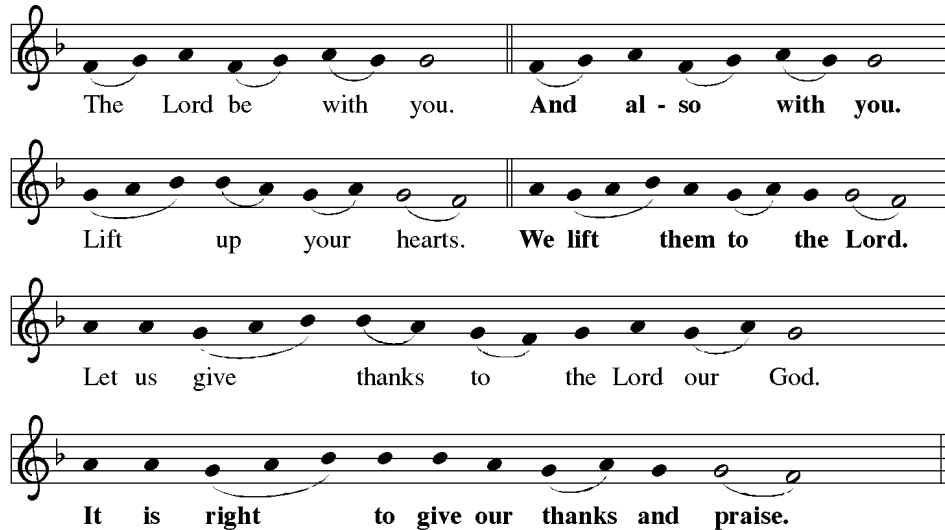
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence: and take not your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to
me the joy of your sal - va - tion:
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of all creation,

C: **all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving



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

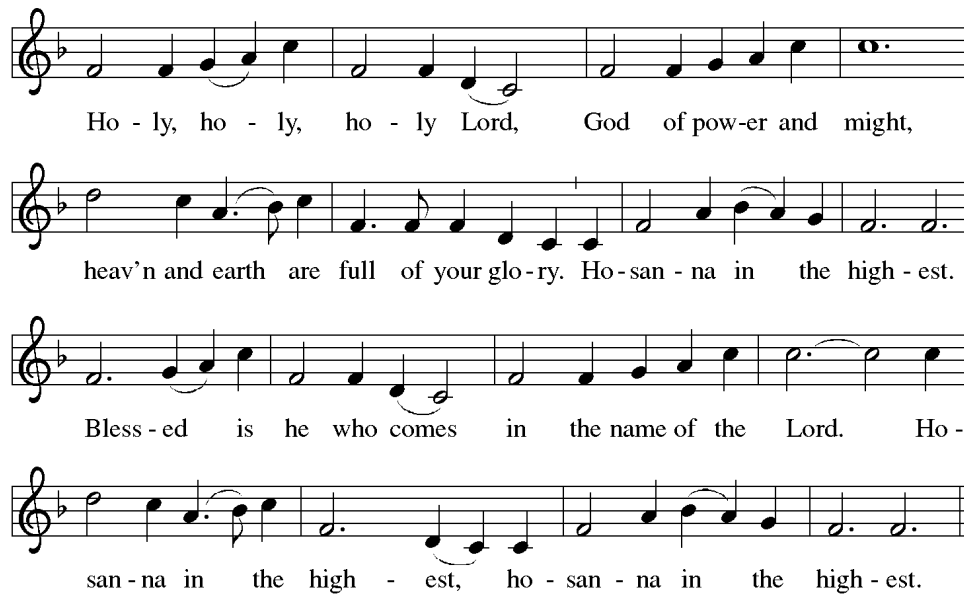
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are
yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men

Communion with our Risen Lord

Agnus Dei



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 each other's burdens help us share;
 may we, where help is needed, there
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 all those who live to live in love,
 till you receive in heav'n above
 those who have lived to you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
 Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C: **Amen**

Post-Communion Hymn

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

***On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, king of grace,
That life's troubles nor its pleasures
Ever may your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
All my glory and salvation!***

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty 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 Lord.

C: **Amen**

Benediction



Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. **A - men**

Hymn

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Prelude in C Major

Gustav Merkel (1827-1885)

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Helene Mann
in honor of the Holy Trinity Women's Sewing Group.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Deb Serio
in loving memory of Bill Belcher on his birthday.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY		
Sunday, March 1	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	2:00 p.m.	Jewish-Christian Text Study
	5:00 p.m.	Senior Youth (grades nine - twelve)
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class (grades six - eight)
Monday, March 2	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	7:00 p.m.	Connecting with God (via Zoom) - <i>Know God - Know Self</i>
Tuesday, March 3	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study - <i>1 John</i>
	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, March 4	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	5:30 p.m.	Winter Seminar - <i>The Bible Tells Me So</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Vespers
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 5	11:00 a.m.	Sermon Discussion Group
Friday, March 6	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	11:00 a.m.	Book Discussion Group - <i>The Four Vision Quests of Jesus</i>
Saturday March 7	10:00 a.m.	Altar Guild
	11:00 a.m.	Youth leave for Virginia Synod 7 th Day Event
Sunday, March 8	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube and Home Communion
	1:30 p.m.	Youth return from Virginia Synod 7 th Day Event
	6:00 p.m.	God In Film - <i>The Son</i>

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Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

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Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene

Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson

Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts

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