

THE LORD'S PRAYER (8:00)

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (10:30) (Please see below to prepare.)

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PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

- I believe that:
- + I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.
 - + Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
 - + Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
 - + The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
 - + All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
 - + As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord's Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:

- "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" #722
- Special Music
- "Thy Body Given for Me, O Savior" #619

Post-Communion Collect p166

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN —

(8:00) "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"	#918
(10:30) "Lead Me, Guide Me" tune: LSB #721	on screen

THE POSTLUDE

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The Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026

WELCOME! In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham in the Old Testament reading, in Holy 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.

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THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND PASTORAL GREETING

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

THE OPENING HYMN — "God Loved the World So that He Gave" vs. 1-3, 6 #571

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (taken from D.S. I—p 151)

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
- P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9
- P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

THE KYRIE p 152

- P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING — Genesis 12:1-9, ESV Pew Bibles, page 10

In this reading, 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.

Now 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. And 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. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan.

When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING — Romans 4:1-8, 13-17, ESV Pew Bibles, page 1119

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. In this reading, we hear how Abraham is the model for both Jews and Gentiles because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

[St. Paul wrote:] What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

...For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL PREPARATION FOR LENT

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

C: **Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING — John 3:1-17, ESV Pew Bibles, page 1053

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE SERMON HYMN — "Christ, the Life of All the Living" vs. 1-3

#420

THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE —

"Christ, the Life of All the Living" v. 6-7

#420

THE NICENE CREED

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THE SHARING OF THE PEACE, TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS- "There is a Redeemer"

#971

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH