

Second Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2026
10:30 AM



“ NO ONE
can see the
kingdom of God
without being
born from above. ”

John 3:3, NRSV



“Christ- Students- Community Coming Together”
444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778
www.martinlutherchapel.org

In today's gospel, Jesus directs our attention to the font of Holy Baptism. By water and the word, the Holy Spirit gives us new birth. We are made sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus, messengers of the Holy Spirit. God does all this for us, freely, out of love. From the waters of baptism we rise as a people blessed by God. We are sent forth into the world, not to condemn but to offer mercy.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Stand

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

P 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. **C** Amen.

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P Most merciful God,

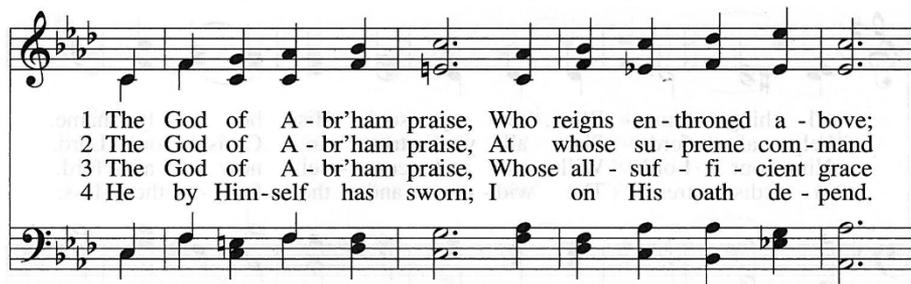
C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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 us and, for his sake, 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.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN "The God of Abraham Praise" LSB 798



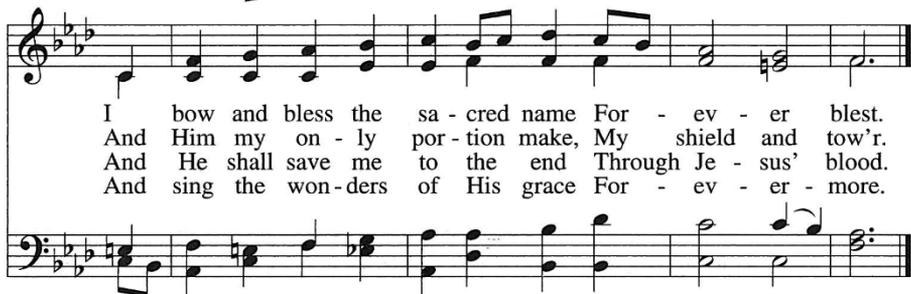
1 The God of A - br'ham praise, Who reigns en - throned a - bove;
2 The God of A - br'ham praise, At whose su - preme com - mand
3 The God of A - br'ham praise, Whose all - suf - fi - cient grace
4 He by Him - self has sworn; I on His oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days And God of love.
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.
Shall guide me all my pil - grim days In all my ways.
I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, To heav'n as - cend.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con - fessed;
I all on earth for - sake, Its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r,
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Him - self my God.
I shall be - hold His face; I shall His pow'r a - dore



I bow and bless the sa - cred name For - ev - er blest.
And Him my on - ly por - tion make, My shield and tow'r.
And He shall save me to the end Through Je - sus' blood.
And sing the won - ders of His grace For - ev - er - more.

KYRIE

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.**

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - - - - - men.

The HYMN OF PRAISE is traditionally omitted during Lent.

P The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

P Eternal God, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 12:1-4a

Genesis 1--11, often called the "primeval history," provides the background for today's reading. The repeated pattern of human rebellion and God's response ends with the Tower of Babel incident (11:1-9). In today's reading, God begins the relationship with humanity anew, starting with the person of Abram.

R 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. 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 the one who curses 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.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Paul has taught that Jews and Gentiles alike are made right with God through faith, and he insists that this has been true since Abraham, the great ancestor of the Jewish people. For this reason, people of "many nations" may share in God's promises to Abraham through faith.

R What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor 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 reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

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. 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, neither is there violation.

For 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, 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.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

C  **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 [P] The Gospel is written in John chapter 3 beginning at verse 1. [C]

Glory to You, O Lord.

The ministry of Jesus drew ambiguous responses from the religious leaders of his day. Some were offended by his challenge to their traditions and rejected him. Others, like Nicodemus, recognized the work of God in him, but needed his teaching to understand how to respond to him and God.

[P] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 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 apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." 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?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 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." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"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. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"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."

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord. [C] **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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.**

Sit

MESSAGE

Stand

HYMN "God Loved the World" LSB 571

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 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all

Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is night; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by

Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 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.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 To You, O blessed Trinity,
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

ST. CRISPIN
 L M

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "hear our prayer." The prayers conclude:

☐ Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **☐ Amen.**

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

introduction

C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer.
Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and
give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

P Let us pray. God of mercy,

C you bless us with gifts that sustain our lives; you transform us with the priceless gift of grace.

Receive us and these signs of your blessings, and may our fasting, prayer, and works of love be an offering of thanksgiving for all that you have done for us in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And al - so with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

intro: one chord

C **Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord
God of pow'r 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

C 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.

LAMB OF GOD

introduction

C 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.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.

HYMN "Just As I Am" LSB 570

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,

blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to

Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68; setting: George J. Elvey, 1816-93

WOODWORTH
L M

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

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

“Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace” LSB 937



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025; Tune: American; Text (sts. 1–2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002511 Tune: Public domain

- P** Let us pray.
- P** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

- P** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN "Guide Me, O thou Great Redeemer" LSB 918

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,

Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
 Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
 Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,

bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
 strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to

more; shield; Thee; Feed me till I want no more.
 Be Thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, st. 1, alt.;
 tr. William Williams, 1717–91, sts. 2–3
 Music: John Hughes, 1873–1932

CWM RHONDDA
 87 87 877

POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.