

March 1, 2026 8:00am

Second Sunday in Lent

## WELCOME AND INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN "Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing" LSB 847, vv. 1-3

Christ, our human likeness sharing,  
Heaven's love on earth portrayed;  
Christ the Shepherd, tending, caring,  
In His death our ransom paid:  
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant,  
Be Your life in us displayed.

Christ, in ev'ry congregation  
Build Your temple, stone by stone,  
With Your word as firm foundation  
For a faith matured and grown:  
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant,  
Make in us Your Gospel known.

Hear the word that Christ has spoken,  
Help the weak, the hungry feed;  
See the pow'rs of darkness broken,  
Sinners pardoned, captives freed:  
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant,  
Help us meet our neighbor's need.

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## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**LSB 184**

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.** (*Psalm 124:8*)

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** (*Psalm 32:5*)

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

O almighty God, merciful Father,

**I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **KYRIE**

**LSB 186**



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Genesis 12:1-9**

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**“My Song Is Love Unknown”**

**Edwin T. Childs**

**EPISTLE**

**Romans 4:1-8, 13-17**

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 trusts 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**“When I Behold Jesus Christ”**

**LSB 542, vv. 1**

When I behold Jesus Christ, True God who died for me,  
I wonder much at His love, As He hung on the tree.

What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?  
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.  
What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?  
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.

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**HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 3:1-17**

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **“When I Behold Jesus Christ”**      **LSB 542, vv. 2-4**

For me You gave all Your love,  
For me You suffered pain;  
I find no words, nothing can  
Your selflessness explain. **Refrain**

You had no sin, holy Lord,  
But You were tortured, tried;  
On Golgotha there for all  
My sins You bled and died. **Refrain**

### ***Refrain***

What kind of love is this?  
What kind of love is this?  
You showed Your love, Jesus, there  
To me on Calvary.

What love is this? Greater love  
No one has ever known.  
My life with God— this I owe  
To You, and You alone. **Refrain**

What kind of love is this?  
What kind of love is this?  
You showed Your love, Jesus, there  
To me on Calvary.

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**SERMON**

**“Blessed to be a Blessing”**

**Pastor Snow**

## **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us come before the throne of God's grace in the name of Jesus and ask Him on behalf of ourselves and all people as they have need.

For grace that with Abraham, we trust in the Lord for all things and this faith be counted unto us as righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to trust in our Baptism from above and for the Spirit to enable us to show forth the fruits of this new life in words and works all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to enjoy a good government and good leaders who do what is good and right and honorable in the sight of the Lord and for the pursuit of peace among the people in our land and across the world, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to proclaim with courage the Good News of our Lord's death and resurrection and for the Spirit to open the hearts of those who hear that they might believe in Him whom the Father has sent, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to provide for the sick and those who suffer, the grieving and the dying, especially... that in their need they know the comfort of God's presence and have confidence in His mercy to supply all that they need for this life and for eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to receive with ready hearts and in repentance all the blessings of this Holy Communion and that the body and blood of our Lord be kept in holy hearts and lives until we receive the heavenly food on high, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering faithful Abraham who was counted righteous by faith and giving thanks for those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, we pray You to bring us at last with them into the place of eternal light and life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**Musical Offering**

**"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"**

**arr. J.S. Bach**

## OFFERTORY

LSB 192

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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

## PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

**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 Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

# SANCTUS

LSB 195



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

# LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI

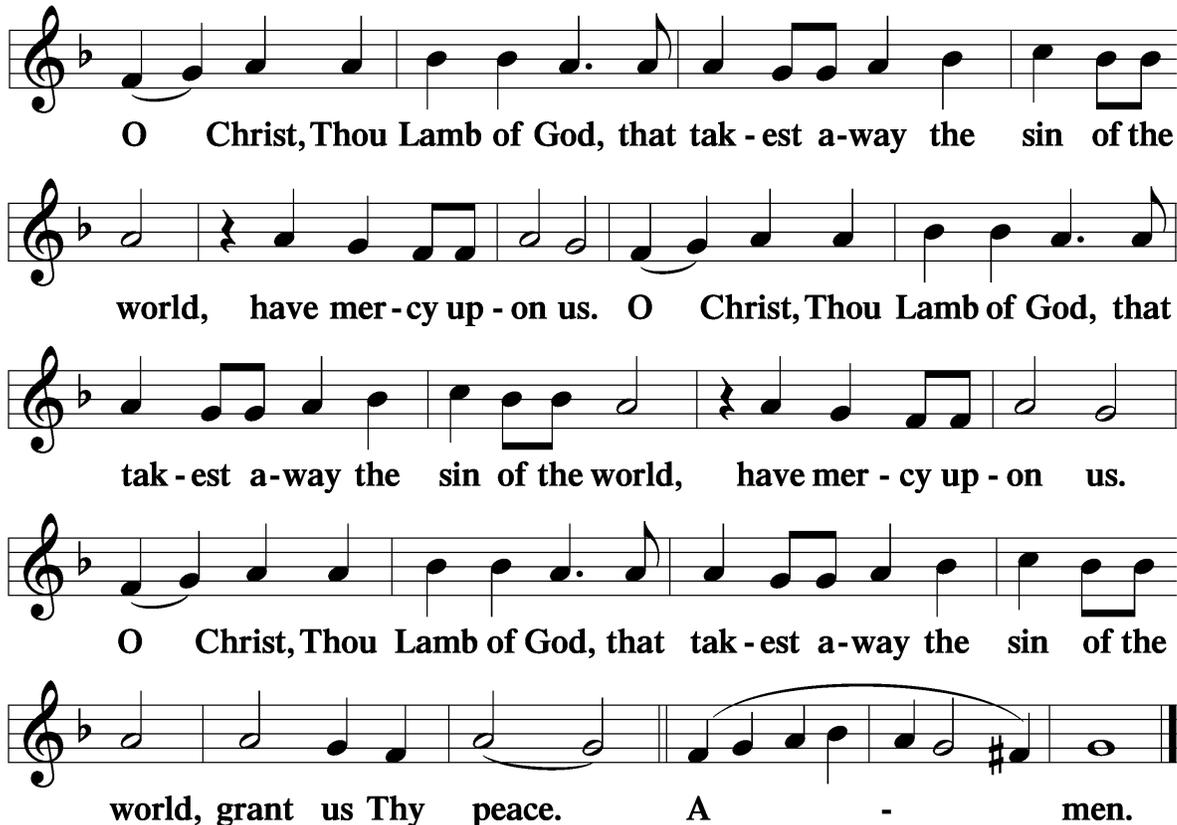
LSB 197

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Please be seated.*



**HYMN****“Sing Praise to the God of Israel”****LSB 936**

Sing praise to the God of Israel!  
Sing praise for His visitation!  
Redeeming His people from their sin,  
Accomplishing their salvation,  
Upraising a mighty horn within  
The house of His servant David!

God spoke by the prophets long ago,  
His promise on oath recalling—  
To Abraham made in former years:  
Of vanquishing foes appalling,  
That those He delivered from their fears  
Might gladly and truly serve Him.

You, child, will go on before the Lord  
As prophet, His way preparing;  
To speak on behalf of God Most High,  
His counsel of truth declaring:  
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby  
Iniquity is forgiven.

O bright, rising Sun, now shine on us  
In need of illumination;  
Come scatter the shades of sin and death  
And shatter their domination.  
Be guiding our footsteps on the path  
Of peace, in Your presence dawning!

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**HYMN****“There Is a Redeemer”****LSB 971**

There is a Redeemer—  
 Jesus, God’s own Son;  
 Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
 Holy One. **Refrain**

Jesus, my Redeemer,  
 Name above all names;  
 Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
 Hope for sinners slain. **Refrain**

**Refrain**

Thank You, O my Father,  
 For giving us Your Son,  
 And leaving Your Spirit ‘til  
 The work on earth is done.

When I stand in glory,  
 I will see His face;  
 There I’ll serve my King forever  
 In that holy place. **Refrain**

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**NUNC DIMITTIS****LSB 199**

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## **DISMISSAL**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
**and His mercy endures forever.**

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **CLOSING HYMN    “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”    LSB 918, vv. 1-2**

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

Text: Public domain

## **SENDING**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH ST. JOHN’S TODAY!**  
If this is your first time at St. John’s, we invite you to fill out a  
**CONNECTCard** located at the Welcome Desk or by using the  
**QR code. We look forward to CONNECT-ing with you.**



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes: 8:00 Pat Oliver

Communion Assistants: 8:00 Scott McCarthy, Chris Mundahl, Marcus Simpson

Elder: 8:00 Zac Lewis

Usher Team: 8:00 Jeff Rasmussen

Welcome Team: 8:00 Gayle Degler, Gary Herber

Tech Crew: 8:00 Jason Eickhoff

Coffee Hour: 9:00 Noella Scheidt

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<b>UPCOMING WEEK</b>	
Sunday, March 1	Youth Night 6:00pm
Monday, March 2	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	AA 7:00pm
Tuesday, March 3	Trustees Meeting 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 4	Moms in the Word 9:30am
	Lenten Midweek Worship 4:15/6:30pm
Thursday, March 5	Women's LifeLight Bible Study 9:30am
	Ladies Aid Meeting 1:30pm
	Board of Education Meeting 6:30pm
	Trail Life Troop Meeting 6:30pm
Friday, March 6	AA 6:30pm
Saturday, March 7	Bible and Bacon Men's Bible Study 6:30pm
	Trail Life Leader's Meeting 9:00am
Sunday, March 8	Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am
	Education Hour 9:30am
	Sugar City 4-H Club Meeting 6:00pm

## Prayers for Healing and Strength

Sandra Lovan  
Lois Wenz  
Steve Lenzen  
Nancy Van Sloun

Shelley Bartizal  
Mary Swanson  
Pastor Al Holthus  
JoAnn Schesso

Patti Oelfke  
Allan Panning  
Janet Macenthun  
Jolene Berg

## Ongoing Prayers

Carol Affeldt  
John Barney  
Merlin Bentz  
Jack Boman  
Jimann Campbell  
Julie Carver  
Marguerite Craighead  
Sunnie Deis

Anita Doss  
Sid & Merna Fjelstad  
Dennis Gaarder  
Ruth Harms  
Eugene Henke  
Carol Jones  
Len Kallsen  
Tim & Gretchen Laubach

Marilyn Lenzen  
Melinda Meuwissen  
Steve Pond  
Austin Rannow  
Cliff Waller  
Ruth Ziegler

## Expectant Moms

Clara Crawley-Reid  
Izzy King

Brenda Simpson  
Nicole Stockey

Brittany Thormodson  
Kourtney Vipond

## Celebrating Birthdays

3/1

Sid Fjelstad  
Ryan Roepke

3/2

Scott King-Ellison  
Shirlee Landskroener

3/3

Kerrigan Groboski

3/4

Tim Laubach  
Chance Panning  
David Peters

3/5

Ashley Lenz  
Carl Maschke  
Cheri Schneider

3/6

Lara Groboski  
Josie Watry

3/7

Tamara Dial  
Oliver Polley  
Laura Simpson