

2nd Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Opening Hymn #245

God Loved the World So that He Gave

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 that confide in Him alone
Are built on this chief Corner-stone.

God would not have the sinner die,
His Son with saving grace is nigh,
His Spirit in the Word doth teach
How man the blessed goal may reach.

4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which thou hast done;
Thou'rt justified by Jesus' blood,
Thy Baptism grants the highest good.

5. If thou be sick, if death draw near,
This truth thy troubled heart can cheer:

Christ Jesus saves my soul from death,
That is the firmest ground of faith.

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

Invocation

*P: We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.*

C ♪: Amen.

Confession & Absolution

*P: 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.*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.

***P & C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miser-
able sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities
with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved
Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily
sorrow for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray
Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy,
innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor
sinful being.***

C ♪: Amen.

Gloria Patri

C ♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

C ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C ♪: And with thy spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P: Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪: Amen.

The First Reading – Genesis 12:1-9

¹The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And 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. ³I 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.” ⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And 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, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then 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. ⁸From 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. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 121
WS pg. 42

Antiphon – Keep me, keep me as the apple of Your eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

I will lift up my eyes | to the hills-*

From whence | comes my help?

My help comes | from the Lord,*

Who made heaven | and earth.

He will not allow your foot | to be moved;*

He who keeps you will not | slumber.

Behold, He who keeps | Israel*

Shall neither slumber | nor sleep.

Antiphon – Keep me, keep me as the apple of Your eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your | right hand.*

**The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the | moon
by night.**

The Lord shall preserve you from all | evil;*

He shall pre- | serve your soul.

The Lord shall preserve your going out and your | coming in*

From this time forth, and even for- | evermore.

Antiphon – Keep me, keep me as the apple of Your eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

The Second Reading – Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather 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 counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

¹³For 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. ¹⁴For if 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 there is no transgression. ¹⁶That 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, 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.

Verse of the Day – John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Gospel Reading – John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This 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.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus 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?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The 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.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, 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. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not

believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And 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. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Confession of Faith ***The Nicene Creed***

P & C: 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 Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who

with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe 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.

Hymn of the Day #429

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

1. Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercies cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share,
Yea, heaven itself were void and bare
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in Thee no one could shake.
Thou art the Portion I have sought;
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

2. Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in every place
May glorify Thy lavish grace
And serve and help my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile
And Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
To bear my cross and follow Thee.

Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.

3. Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abram's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my Fount of grace,
Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

Sermon Text – John 3:1-17

Sermon

*The Word of the Gospel Opens the Eyes of Faith and
Fixes Them on Christ Jesus*

Offertory

C ***♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.***

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

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

P: Heavenly Father, You called Your servant Abraham to leave his father's household and possessions and to go to a new land. Abraham is now the father of us all through faith, and You have given all fathers the calling of Abraham to hand down the Gospel of Christ. Fill their hearts with the words of Christ, and remember them according to Your great mercy.

**1. All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken
By their God are not forsaken
And will keep a dauntless heart.**

P: Righteous Lord, Nicodemus was led by the word of Jesus to the cross. Grant us faith to trust Your Word of forgiveness and receive Christ's body and blood in the Holy Sacrament for forgiveness, life and salvation.

**2. He who to this day has fed me
And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine.
He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me
Will remain my help divine.**

P: Merciful Lord, Your Son, Jesus, came to teach us the way of truth. Sustain all pastors in this sacred calling. Give them patience to teach the faith to all who question the way of salvation, and raise up teachers of righteousness in every generation.

**3. Many spend their lives in fretting
Over trifles and in getting
Things that have no solid ground.
I shall strive to win a treasure**

**That will bring me lasting pleasure
And that now is seldom found.**

P: Almighty God, You sent forth Your own Son to heal and give everlasting life. By Your Word and Spirit, lift up Your people from their sorrows. Heal them according to Your gracious will, and deliver them from the pain of death to eternal life. [*Hear us, we pray, especially for _____.*] Sustain them in their afflictions, comfort them in the hour of death and raise up the dead according to Your gracious promise.

**4. When with sorrow I am stricken,
Hope anew my heart will quicken;
All my longing shall be stilled.
To His loving-kindness tender
Soul and body I surrender,
For on God alone I build.**

P: O Lord, You have established rulers and earthly authorities to protect us. Bless President Trump, Governor Walz; the Congress of the United States; the legislature of this state; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Help us to preserve our liberty and use its gift wisely in the pursuit of justice and for the welfare of all people.

**5. Well He knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt His wisdom never;
As God wills, so be it ever;
I commit to Him my way.**

P: Lord, You gave Abraham the promise of many descendants. Give us faith, that we may delight in this promise, delivered through the ages and kept in Christ, our Savior. Equip us with Your Spirit to be bold and unwavering witnesses, carrying Your name and Your Gospel to every place and people.

**6. If my days on earth He lengthen,
God my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in Him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding;
Safe I anchor in His grace.**

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

Amen.

The Communion Liturgy

P: The Lord be with you:

C ♪: And with Thy Spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts:

C ♪: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God:

C ♪: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly, meet, right and salutary...Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

The Sanctus

**C ♪: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in
the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

P: 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;

**C ♪: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you alway!

C ♪: Amen.

The Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A-men.

The Distribution

The Nunc Dimittis

**C ♪: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,
According to Thy word.**

For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles And the Glory of Thy people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.**

The Thanksgiving

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good:

C ♪: And His mercy endureth forever.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C ♪: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn #618

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

1. Jerusalem, my happy home,
Name ever dear to me,
When shall my labors have an end?
Thy joys when shall I see?

2. When shall these eyes thy heav'n-built walls
And pearly gates behold,
Thy bulwarks with salvation strong,
And streets of shining gold?

3. Oh, when, thou city of my God,
Shall I thy courts ascend
Where evermore the angels sing,
Where Sabbaths have no end?

4. Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there

Around my Savior stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below
Will join the glorious band.

5. Jerusalem, my happy home,
When shall I come to thee?
When shall my labors have an end?
Thy joys when shall I see?

6. O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare
For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore
With all Thy saints above.

Silent Prayer

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Portions of the Liturgy from the Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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