

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 – 9:30 AM

#### WELCOME



During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in 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.

- † Preacher – The Reverend Wes Smith
- † Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider
- † Worship Leaders – Brian & Liz Griswold

#### CONFESS & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, <sup>†</sup> one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of <sup>†</sup> Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

#### OPENING HYMN 1: Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Come, now is the time to worship  
Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship  
Come, just as you are before your God, Come

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God  
One day, every knee will bow  
Still, the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now

## OPENING HYMN 2: Majesty

Majesty, worship His majesty.  
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
Flow from His throne unto His own  
His anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.  
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.  
Majesty, worship His majesty,  
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

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**Prayer of the Day** - 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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

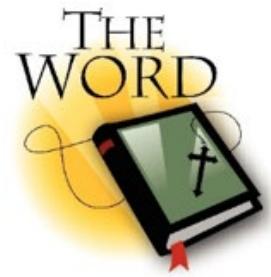
## GOD'S HOLY WORD

### FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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."

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him..

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**



### Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

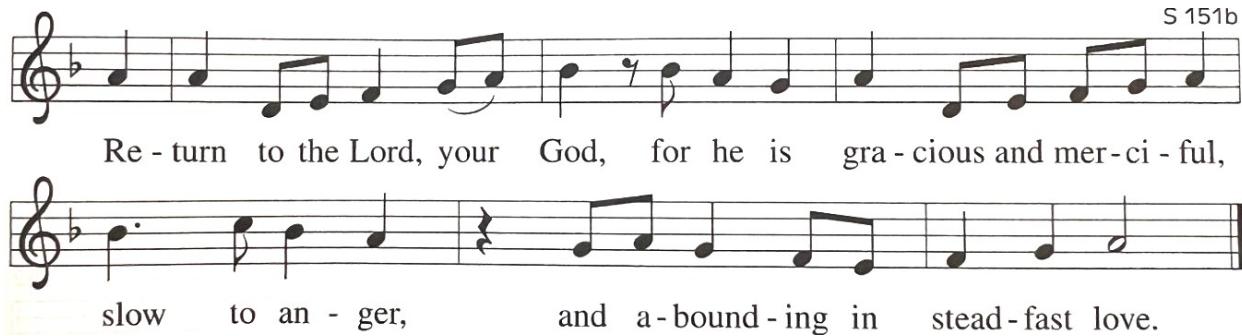
<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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 steady - fast love.

## HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John 3: 1 - 17; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> 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 unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

<sup>4</sup> 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?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> "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. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "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.

<sup>17</sup> "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."

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## SERMON – "The Gospel in Miniature"

**The Reverend Wes Smith**



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## **OFFERING HYMN: ELW#335 – Jesus, Keep me near the Cross**

- 1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain. **Refrain**
- 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. **Refrain**
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day  
with its shadow o'er me. **Refrain**
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river. **Refrain**

### **Refrain**

In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.

## **OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, Our Savior, and Redeemer, we come to you with hearts filled with gratitude for the abundant blessings you give us each day. Receive these gifts as a joyful act of worship and an expression of our deep love for you and our want to further your kingdom here on earth. Use these gifts and us in your service. **Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

† We recognize those joining us via Facebook Live and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. (*Please name silently or out loud.*) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

*(Additional petitions may be offered.)*

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

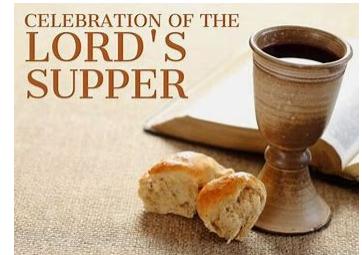
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love, you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross opened his arms to all.

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.

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.



Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray –

**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.**

**Invitation to Communion** – Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

### COMMUNION HYMN 1: Change My Heart O God

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.  
You are the potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

### COMMUNION HYMN 2: Spirit of the Living God

1. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
2. Soul of heaven, heart of God, wash over me.  
Soul of heaven heart of God, wash over me.  
Cleanse me, teach me, hold me, reach me,  
Soul of heaven, heart of God, wash over me.
3. Holy presence, love divine, cast out my fear,  
Holy presence, love divine, cast out my fear,  
Shield me, free me, call me, lead me,  
Holy presence, love divine, cast out my fear.
4. Spirit of the living God move among us all,  
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love.  
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing,  
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

**Closing Prayer** - God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Blessing** - Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, **+** bless you now and always. **Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN: ELW#810 – O Jesus, I have Promised**

1 O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me,  
my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if you will be my guide.

2 Oh, let me feel you near me;  
the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer  
to shield my soul from sin.

3 Oh, let me hear you speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen,  
O Guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised  
to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory  
your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow,  
my master and my friend.

### **Song of Blessing**

May God's blessing surround you each day,  
As you trust God and walk in God's way.  
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin,  
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

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**Dismissal:** Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Notes:**

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