

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

PASTOR ED PEASE

MARCH 1, 2026



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.

(*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

Welcome & Announcements

*Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ 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 ✚ 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 "O God of Mercy, God of Light" #714

*Greeting

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Kyrie p. 138

*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.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

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.

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ 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."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

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

² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

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

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

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

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who

does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation -- p. 142**

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

*The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² 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." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ 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?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ 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." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

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

¹⁶ "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.

¹⁷ "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, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Message

Hymn "Lift High the Cross" #660

*Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

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 (*like George Herbert whom the church remembers today*), 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 (especially we pray for Barb, Carla, Barb, Diane, Bill, Ed, Pat, Jeni, Kenny, and Jayme). 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 (*especially*) and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.

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

Amen.

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

***Offering Prayer**

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy, Holy** p. 144

***Thanksgiving at the Table** p.144

***Lord's Prayer**

***Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Communion (table)

You will be ushered to the communion rail one group at a time. Pastor motions for those who wish to kneel. The bread/wafers (gluten free wafers are on the pedestal in front of the font) and wine/juice are distributed and children receive a blessing. Pastor blesses and dismisses each group together. Exit along the outside aisle, placing your empty cup in the holders there.

Distribution Hymns: #666– What Wondrous Love is; #323 – God Loved the World

***Prayer after Communion**

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #803

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Baptized believers sent into God's world to share God's love and grace.

Liturgy is from Sundays & Seasons, reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000556. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pastor Ed Pease:

Home Phone – 605-231-2367

Email – edward.pease@gmail.com

- A special welcome to any visitors! Please take the time this morning to fill out the visitor card located with the hymnals and either place it on the offering plate or give it to an usher.
- There is a confirmation sign-up sheet for adult volunteers on the usher's table.
- There is a sign up on the usher's table for the fellowship and visitation committee. If you are interested, please sign up on the usher's table.

- Movable Ministerial Association Lenten Breakfasts
Breakfast is served at 7:30am followed by a brief Lenten service

Wednesday - March 4th at Trinity Lutheran Church with Fr. Michael presiding
 Wednesday - March 11th at United Methodist Church with Pastor Ed presiding
 Wednesday - March 18th at Immaculate Conception with Pastor Eric presiding

- During the season of Lent, our midweek Lent services will look a little different. Every week we will do dinner and worship at 6:00 PM. Below you will find the schedule as to who will be providing meals each week. We are excited about this new time to build community and share in a time of fellowship and praise with one another.

March 4	KidZone
March 11	Men's Group
March 18	Women of the Congregation
March 25	Potluck - A Taste of Trinity

This Week's Events: March 1-8

Today	9:00am	2nd Sunday of Lent
Tues.	7:00pm	AA Meeting (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Wed.	3:30pm	KidZone
	6:00pm	Mid-Week Lent Supper and Worship
Sun.	9:00am	2nd Sunday of Lent
	10:15am	Council Meeting

Worship Assistants for March:

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Gail & Cindy Ploen
Scripture Reader: Ann Hopp	Offertory Accountants: Denny Bain & Irv Martin
Tech Assistant: Kari Collins	
Greeters: Gail & Cindy Ploen	
Greeters Next Week: Rebecca & Ava Brockhaus	

Birthdays: 2 - Kennedy Krieg, Jacob Anthony, Brian Benedix; 4 - Ashley Malm, Alyssa Zellmer, Austin Zellmer, Burgundy Zellmer, Katlyn Lees; 6 - Julie Davis, Ray DeWitt, Courtney Goble; 7 - Pat Kizzier

Prayers

We pray for Kenny Stroman; Barb Kunkel; Carla Boggs; Barb Allner; Diane Riediger; Bill Nagel; Ed Kunkel; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.
 For those battling cancer: Jayme Webb –breast cancer; Jeni Aman.

God's Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!

Our budget needs each week: \$3,175

Electronic Giving	\$	690.00
Cookbooks	\$	20.00
Midweek Lenten	\$	385.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>877.00</u>
Total	\$	1,972.00

