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March 1, 2026

The Second Sunday in Lent

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Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

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## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

- ♪ Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish  
Of Your suff’ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.
- ♪ Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;  
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,  
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
- ♪ Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,  
But its cause to me make known And its termination.  
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;  
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion.
- ♪ Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun Ev’ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God’s only Son Suffered without measure?
- ♪ If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!
- ♪ Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav’n above Sing Your praise forever.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 440—Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81;  
tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Text: Public domain

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

From where does my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will preserve your going out and your coming in,

**From this time forth and forevermore.**

*Psalms 121:1–2, 8*

*A Time of Silence*

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 punishment now and forever. 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. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Kyrie**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## **Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. 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** *Please Be Seated*

Genesis 12:1–9

<sup>1</sup>Now 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>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. <sup>3</sup>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.”

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

## The Epistle

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>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, <sup>17</sup>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.

## Gradual Hymn

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”

- ♪ 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.
- ♪ Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- ♪ God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.
- ♪ Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus’ blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- ♪ 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.

*Please Stand*

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

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 571—Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778,  
Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Text: Public domain

## The Holy Gospel

John 3:1–17

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup>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?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>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."

<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>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. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And 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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>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.

## Nicene Creed

### Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

#### The Hymn

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

- ♪ Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way; Direct, protect, and feed me  
From day to day. Without Your grace and favor I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.
- ♪ Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear, For You, the Rock of Ages,  
Are always near. Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.
- ♪ Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come, I know that You will strengthen  
My steps toward home. Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 722—Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005255

## Proclamation of the Word

"John 3:15"

John 3:1–17

## Offering and Musical Offering

### Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

### Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

*Colossians 3:1*

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Psalm 136*

## **Proper Preface**

**Sanctus** *Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"- Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423*

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God, Heav'n and earth Your glory show.

With the life and breath You've given We Your name praise here below

Sing hosanna, blest is He who Comes to us, our Savior dear.

Sing hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna far and near.

## **Words of Our Lord**

### **Proclamation of Christ**

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*1 Corinthians 11:26 & Revelation 22:20*

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **The Peace of the Lord**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**Agnus Dei** *Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"- Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423*

♪ Jesus, Lamb of God, our Savior, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,

Jesus, Lamb of God, Redeemer, Savior from the world above,

Jesus, Lamb of God our Savior, take our sins from us away.

Comfort us by Your sweet presence. Grant us peace to us today.

**Distribution Hymns** *Please Be Seated*

**"Jesus Lead Thou On"**

♪ Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And although the way be cheerless,

We will follow calm and fearless. Guide us by Thy hand to our fatherland.

♪ If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;

Let not faith and hope forsake us; For through many a woe To our home we go.

♪ When we seek relief From a long-felt grief, When temptations come alluring,

Make us patient and enduring. Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.

♪ Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'nly leader, still direct us,

Still support, console, protect us, Till we safely stand In our fatherland.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 728-Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700-60;  
tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-97, alt.; Text: Public domain*

**"The Old Rugged Cross"**

♪ On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame;

And I love that old cross where the dearest and best

For a world of lost sinners was slain.

- ~So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
 I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.
- ♪ O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
 For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
 To bear it to dark Calvary. ~So I'll cherish...
- ♪ In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see;  
 For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died  
 To pardon and sanctify me. ~So I'll cherish...
- ♪ To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
 Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,  
 Where His glory forever I'll share. ~So I'll cherish....

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn, 186 -Text & Tune: George Bennard 1873-1958; ©1913 George Bennard,  
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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

- ♪ Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die?  
 Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?
- ♪ Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
 Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!
- ♪ Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in  
 When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures' sin.
- ♪ Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,  
 Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
- ♪ But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;  
 Here, Lord, I give myself away: 'Tis all that I can do.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 437 -Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Public domain*

### Postlude