



First Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 1, 2026 | Second Sunday in Lent

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.



PRELUDE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN | *The Power of the Cross* | Keith Getty & Stuart Townend | WT/Choir

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day, Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.

**Chorus: This, the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath. We stand forgiven at the cross.**

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed, crowning Your bloodstained brow. **Chorus**

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life, "Finished!" the vict'ry cry. **Chorus**

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suff'ring I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live, won through Your selfless love.

**Chorus 2: This, the pow'r of the cross: Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost. We stand forgiven at the cross.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

MUSICAL MESSAGE *How Beautiful* - arr. Benjamin Harlan | Jubilate Choir

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us Pray :**C: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.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM | *Psalm 121*

R: I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

C: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

R: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

C: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

R: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

C: The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

R: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

C: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

SECOND READING | *Romans 4:1-5, 13-17*

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.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL | *John 3:1-17*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

³ 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. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON | Pr. Matthew Rossler

HYMN OF THE DAY | *What Wondrous Love is This* | ELW #666

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul,
for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme,
I will sing.
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing God's love for me, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

STATEMENT OF FAITH | *Apostle's Creed*

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING / NOISY OFFERING | *March: Becker County Food Pantry*

OFFERTORY SONG | *Holy, Holy, Holy* | *ELW #473*

1. Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God. **(Sing 2x)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG | *God So Loved*

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty. Come to the well that never runs dry.
Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners, come find His mercy. Come to the table; He will satisfy.
Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for.

**Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.**

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.
Jesus is waiting there with open arms. **Chorus**

**Chorus 2: The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom,
For God so loved, God so loved the world.**

Praise God, praise God, from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, praise Him, for the wonders of His love.
Praise God, praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him, for the wonders of His love. His amazing love.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save. **Chorus**

Chorus 2

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN

March 7-8, 8pm—8am

Sixth - eight graders, are you ready for an epic filled all-nighter? Games! Food! Fun!

Parents – Be sure to register your child here



RSVP HERE

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 1 pm. in the library
Through March 10

Each session includes a 40-50 minute video with discussion following. If you are not able to come each week, you can watch the videos online anytime at:

Home Page | The Chosen

BLESSING CLOSET NEEDS

Currently we are need of: men's clothing & reusable shopping bags/tote bags. Donations can be brought to the church office. Thanks!

REBEKAH CIRCLE

**Date change* March 3 @ 9am*
Please note date change and location will be at Lincoln Park Apartments.

FLC CLOTHING STORE

If you missed your chance to order an FLC t-shirt or sweatshirt last year, now's your chance! Scan the QR code to shop the store. Deadline to order is **March 2**



WANT TO TRY CONFIRMATION AGAIN?

On select Wednesdays you can come to the sanctuary from 6:30 - 7:30pm and join our 7th & 8th graders for their confirmation lesson. Join us for any or all of the following lessons:

3/18: *Theology – Creation*

3/25: *Theology – Baptism & Communion*

4/8: *Theology – The Cross vs. Glory*

PIE AUCTION

Sunday, March 22

Our annual Pie Auction Fundraiser is coming up soon! You are invited to join us after worship on March 22 for this fun and delicious event. All funds will go towards our upcoming summer high school trip to Would Ridge. Want to support this event? We Are looking for donations of pie & baked goods to auction off. A signup is at the information table outside of the church office.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays @ noon

Join us Wednesdays in Lent for worship and a study of the book of Psalms. A soup & sandwich lunch to follow the service each week. Everyone is welcome — invite a friend!

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to order flowers in honor/memory of a loved one to be displayed on Easter Sunday, order forms are now available. Forms are at the information table, by the office or scan the QR code to pay online.



Prayers for God's People

Ongoing prayers for:

Bill Wegschied, Cole Woltjer, Gretta Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry Kjono, Tyler Wilson, Dave & Pam Nustad, Cami Eckhoff, Atticus, Kathy Larson, the Blake Family, and Ethan Jacob.

Prayers of comfort for those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Thanks for worshipping with us!



First
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Church

Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo
Associate Pastor: Matthew Rossler
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

GIVE ONLINE

Prefer electronic giving?

Set up an automated method and frequency that works best for you by using the **QR code**.

Then, if you like, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate.



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