

February 28 – March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND (u) PASSING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP "LEAD ME LORD"

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
Make thy way plain before my face.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

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

GATHERING HYMN "BAPTIZED IN WATER"

1 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ_ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise_ we sing.

3 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ_ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise_ we sing.

GREETING

P From our God who loves us with an everlasting love, who brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us by the Spirit in the wilderness: Grace and abundant mercy be with you all.
C And also with you.

KYRIE

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy; have mer - cy. O Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together.

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.

(d)

ANTHEM

LESSON OF THE DAY

Genesis 12:1-8

The lesson begins:

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 – RESPONSIVE

P I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?

C My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

P He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber;

C indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

P The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

C the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

P The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;

C the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

(u)

ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, your_ God, for he is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(d)

SERMON

(u)

SERMON RESPONSE "O GOD, WHO GIVES US LIFE"

**O_ God, who gives us_ life and breath,
Who shapes us in_ the womb,
Who_ guards our lives from birth to death,
Then_ leads_ us from the tomb:
Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you,
Help us to know your_ Spirit still
Is_ mak – ing all things new.**

APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

(d)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

A brief silence.

A Dearest heavenly Father, we know John 3:16 by heart. Thank you for its truth. You so loved the world! You gave your only Son! We may have everlasting life, not death! Thank you for your love. By your Spirit, let our lives reflect that love – to you, and to people who don't yet know your love or believe your Word. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer**

A Nicodemus, a teacher in Israel, needed the challenge, wisdom, and words of life that only Jesus could give. Grant that all who seek to be pastors, teachers, and theologians should always sit at Jesus' feet. Fill them with his Spirit. Make them truth-filled teachers and trustworthy guides to everyone in their care. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer**

A Fill this congregation with the Holy Spirit, so that day by day, our hearts, minds, words, and works are reborn as instruments of your will. Use us to bring your redeeming love to those who need it most. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer**

A Be the shield and strength of those who risk their lives on our behalf. Do not let their foot be moved. Deliver them from evil. Use them to bring safety and help in dangerous situations. Restore them to their loved ones when their task is done. Grant honor to the fallen, healing to the wounded; and peace to all. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer**

A Watch over everyone who endures pain, sorrow, fear, doubt, loneliness, or despair, especially: {List}. Be their shade and shelter. Give hope to their hearts, health to their bodies, confidence to their minds, and faith to their souls. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

A Heavenly Father, thank you for embracing our beloved dead in your everlasting arms. Keep us steadfast in the faith. Guide us through this “barren land.” Feed us with the Bread of Heaven. Be our strength and shield. When we tread the verge of Jordan, bid our anxious fears subside. By the Cross of Jesus, land us safe on Canaan’s side. Fill us with songs and praises that, with all the redeemed, we sing to you forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING

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OFFERTORY “LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL”

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
And_ fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams_ of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
And give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING / WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (SUNG)

**Holy, ho - ly, holy Lord_, God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth_ are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in_ the highest.

Blessed_ is he who comes_ in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in_ the highest_, hosanna in_ the highest.

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P As a community, let us pray in the way our Lord Jesus has taught us: **(SPOKEN)**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

(d)

THE COMMUNION is given and received.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

THE BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME"

1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk_ with me;
all along my pil - grim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk_ with me;
when my head is bowed_ in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

DISMISSAL

A Let us go forth in the name of the Lord,
C To know Christ, and to make Christ known.
Thanks be to God.

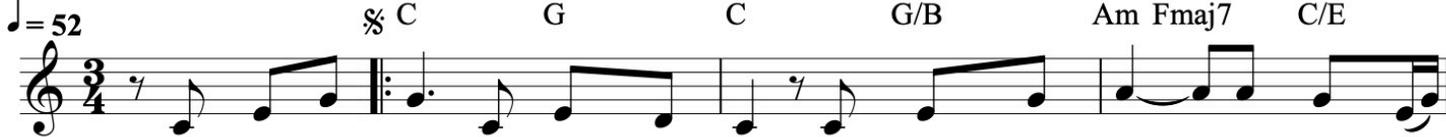
POSTLUDE

Lamb Of God

Words and Music by
Twila Paris

VERSE

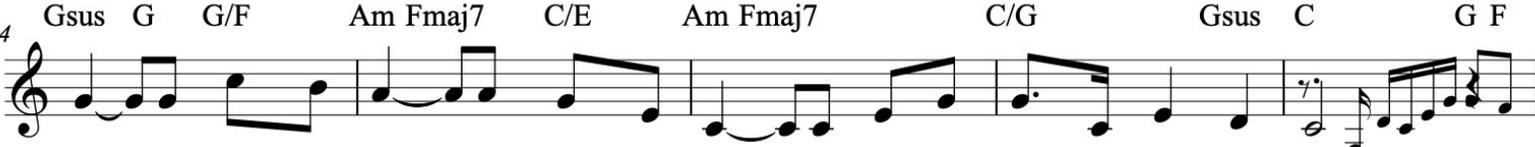
$\text{♩} = 52$ $\% C$ G C G/B Am Fmaj7 C/E



Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide; But You have sent Him from Your
Your gift of) love they cru - ci - fied; They laughed and scorned Him as He
I was so) lost I should have died; But You have brought me to Your

1

4 Gsus G G/F Am Fmaj7 C/E Am Fmaj7 C/G Gsus C G F



side, to walk up - on this guilt - y sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.
died. The hum - ble King they named a fraud, and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of
side to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of

CHORUS

(1) | 2, 3

9 C G C Am F G/F C/E C G/B Am Fmaj7 C/E



Your gift of God. Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God. I love the ho - ly Lamb of

1

14 Gsus G G/F Am Fmaj7 C/E Am Fmaj7 C/G Gsus C G F



God. Oh, wash me in His pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

OUTRO

(1) | 2

19 C G C/G Gsus C G F C G F C

D.S.



I was so Christ, the Lamb of God.