

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
February 28 – March 1, 2026
St. Paul Lutheran Church, West Point, Nebraska

AS WE GATHER

Abraham looms over the Old and New Testaments. Abraham is also our father because we are in Christ. We are his heirs, who live within the promise God made to us through Abraham. We are also his heirs as a people whose righteousness is not by accomplishment but by faith, not by works but by trusting in the promise of God to save us. Paul urges both Jew and Gentile to see in Abraham the model of faith who many times was left only with faith in God's promises and still believed. So now are we commended to show forth that we are his heirs by our own faith in Christ, our righteousness. Like Abraham, we have no real options. Our hope is bound to the Father's gracious promises fulfilled in Christ.

HYMN "God Loved The World So That He Gave" LSB 571

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

- 3 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.

- 4 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.

- 5 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.

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

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 121:1-2, 8

P From where does my help come?
C **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

P The LORD will preserve your going out and your coming in,
C **from this time forth and forevermore.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **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.**

P 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.
C **Amen.**

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**

PSALM

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴**Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

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

⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

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

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, You promised Abraham that he would become the father of many nations. Grant to us that we may see in Jesus the fulfillment of Your promise and covenant, with Your holy church, sealed in His blood on the cross. Bring us to the righteousness that comes by faith in Christ, our Savior; in the holy name of Jesus, who with You and the Holy Spirit, is one God and one Lord, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1–9

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go 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 left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, 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. Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about--but not before God. What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count

against him." It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. (NIV)

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY 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 man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. " "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is 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? I tell you the truth, 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 desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. "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. (NIV)

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN “How Shall They Hear,” Who Have Not Heard” LSB 831

- 1 “How shall they hear,” who have not heard
News of a Lord who loved and came;
Nor known His reconciling word,
Nor learned to trust a Savior’s name?
- 2 “To all the world,” to ev’ry place,
Neighbors and friends and far-off lands,
Preach the good news of saving grace;
Go while the great commission stands.
- 3 “Whom shall I send?” Who hears the call,
Constant in prayer, through toil and pain,
Telling of One who died for all,
To bring a lost world home again?
- 4 “Lord, here am I:” Your fire impart
To this poor cold self-centered soul;
Touch but my lips, my hands, my heart,
And make a world for Christ my goal.
- 5 Spirit of love, within us move:
Spirit of truth, in pow’r come down!
So shall they hear and find and prove
Christ is their life, their joy, their crown.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

Tune: Georg Joseph, 17th cent., adapt.; setting: Cantica Spiritualia, 1847

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Music: Public domain

Tithes & Offerings – We return to the Lord from His blessings for the work of His kingdom

HYMN “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross” LSB 425

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Text and music: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us come before the throne of God’s grace in the name of Jesus and bid Him on behalf of ourselves and all people as they have need.
For grace that with Abraham our father, we trust in the Lord for all things and this faith be counted unto us as righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For grace to trust in our Baptism from above and for the Spirit to enable us to show forth the fruits of this new life in words and works all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For grace to enjoy a good government and good leaders who do what is good and right and honorable in the sight of the Lord and for the pursuit of peace among the people in our land and across the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For grace to proclaim with courage the Good News of our Lord’s death and resurrection and for the Spirit to open the hearts of those who hear that they might believe in Him whom the Father has sent, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For grace upon every pastor and church worker that they faithfully fulfill their vocations and for the Lord to raise up many who will follow them into the Lord’s service, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P For grace to provide for the widow and the fatherless, the single and the married, the sick and those who suffer, the grieving and the dying, [*especially . . .*], that in their need they know the comfort of God's presence and have confidence in His mercy to supply all that they need for this life and for eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**

Additional petitions may be inserted here.

- P For grace to receive with ready hearts and in repentance all the blessings of this Holy Communion and that the body and blood of our Lord be kept in holy hearts and lives until we receive the heavenly food on high, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P For grace to enjoy the good fruits of the earth with thankful hearts, for grace to be generous with those in need, and for grace to love our neighbors as ourselves, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P Remembering faithful Abraham who was counted righteous by faith and giving thanks for those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, we pray You to bring us at last with them into the place of eternal light and life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SACRAMENT of the ALTAR

PREFACE

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is pleasing to You and our delight to give voice to our faith, singing with faithful Abraham and all who rejoiced in the righteousness so lovingly given without merit or labor on our part, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has given us the new birth of water and the Word and bestowed the Spirit by whom we shall be brought to everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, and all the company of heaven, we join in their unending hymn, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 208

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Holy God, mighty Lord, You raised up Abraham as patriarch of Your people and prophet to point to Christ, his greater Son, and in Christ You fulfilled Your promise to make him the father of many nations. Christ has by His suffering and death won for You a holy people, cleansed in the water of Your grace and clothed with a righteousness from Christ alone. As He has come to do Your will, grant us that we may follow our Lord and be numbered with the saints in glory everlasting. Strengthened and nourished by the blood of His covenant poured out for us, we come at His bidding to the Table where He delivers up His own flesh to be our food and the foretaste of eternity, which He shall usher in at the appointed day.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

C **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,**

And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

HYMN “O Lord, We Praise Thee” LSB 617

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:
O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.;
(sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter;

Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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HYMN “Salvation Unto Us Has Come” LSB 555

1 Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,

Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

- 2 What God did in His Law demand
And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires
The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.
- 3 It was a false, misleading dream
That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem
And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.
- 4 From sin our flesh could not abstain,
Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain,
Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart
Or purify our guileful heart—
So deep is our corruption.
- 5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled
Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.
- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.
- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.

8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin
And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in
The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.

9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God, in Your mercy You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude and counted him righteous by faith. You sent Your own Son to accomplish this promise and establish a church for all nations and a people declared righteous in Christ. Grant that we who have received of Your goodness in this Holy Sacrament may live in holiness and faith all the days of our lives, until at last we are reunited with all of the heirs of Abraham in the glory of life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, Abraham's Son and Lord, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, is one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

HYMN "On What Has Now Been Sown" LSB 921

1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone

To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89; setting: The Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Text and music: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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