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∞ THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT ∞  
ORDER OF WORSHIP • MARCH 1, 2026 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

✠ GATHERING HYMN

TREE OF LIFE AND AWESOME  
MYSTERY

CHOIR ALONE:

*Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry, in your death we are reborn;  
though you die in all of hist'ry, still you rise with ev'ry morn,  
still you rise with ev'ry morn.*

**ALL: Seed that dies to rise in glory, may we see ourselves in you;  
If we learn to live your story, we may die to rise anew,  
we may die to rise anew.**

**In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true:  
May we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do,  
Christ as Lord of all we do.**

✠ CONFESSION

WL: Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, yet we fail  
to share your love with your world. We do not show others the  
tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome  
others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We  
oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.  
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Make us turn to you  
alone, gracious God. Transform our lives and guide us again in the  
way of the cross. Amen.**

✠ ABSOLUTION

WL: People of God, take heart! The Lord has heard your cry.

The Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

The one who gave his life in love always stretches forth his arms to  
welcome the wandering ones home.

Go now, restored and forgiven. Take up your cross and follow him.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

WL: Let us pray. 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.

**All: Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 12:1-9

R: The First lesson for this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent is from the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis.

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.

Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 4:1-8, 13-17

R: Our Epistle lesson is from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

It was not through the 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 depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the 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 have 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 into being things that were not.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ VERSE

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS  
LBW #500, STANZAS 1 & 3

**Faith of our fathers, living still, in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
whene’er we hear that glorious Word.**

**Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife.  
Proclaim thee, too, as love knows how, by saving Word and faithful life.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

## ✠ HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 3:1-17

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

All: **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.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS  
LBW #482, ROCKINGHAM OLD

# PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

## GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

AND SHARING OF MINISTRY MINUTE:

REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRIES

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### ✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### ✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### ✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: **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.**

### ✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## PARISH CHOIR ANTHEM

“COME TO ME”  
BY DAVID LUDWIG  
JESSE KOENIG, SOLOIST

*Listen to the crying of your children.  
Touch the shattered fragments of their lives.  
Taste the bitter teardrops in their eyes  
as they long for healing for their soul.*

*Come to me all you who labor,  
Come to me all you who mourn.  
You who are weary and heavy laden,  
I will give you rest for your soul.*

*I am the living water restoring life to all who faint.  
All those who drink of me will thirst no more.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER  
LBW #346, WITH REFRAIN

### ✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

All: **Amen.**

### ✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. Lamb of God, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in your holy name.

All: **Amen.**

### ✠ BLESSING

WL: 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.

All: **Amen.**

✠ SENDING SONG

THIS TRAIN IS BOUND FOR GLORY

**This train is bound for glory (3X)**

**Children, get on board!**

**No more weepin' and a-wailin'. (3X)**

**Children, get on board!**

**This train is bound for freedom (3X)**

**Children, get on board!**

**No more weepin' and a-wailin'. (3X)**

**Children, get on board!**

✠ SENDING

**WL:** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**  
**TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY**

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**Liturgy from Lutheran Service Book.**

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**TREE OF LIFE AND AWESOME MYSTERY**

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**COME TO ME**

Text and Tune: David Ludwig, Jr, 1991



worthy  
IS THE LAMB



**PRINCE of PEACE**  
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