

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
March 1st, 2026 – Second Sunday of Lent
Pastor Stephanie Newman

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude

Duncan Jones

GATHERING

(Please Stand)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

P: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

C: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

O Word of God Incarnate

ELW 514 (Vs.1,2,3)

The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Music

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen

Song

Kyrie Eleison/Instead of Cross Gen Song

WP 81

Cross-Generation Message

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

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. 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. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 121

The Psalm will be read responsively

A: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

C: **My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

A: The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

C: **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

A: the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

C: **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

A: The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

C: **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

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. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

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, 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.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation will please stand as able & comfortable

Gospel Verse

Let your Steadfast Love
(Lights off after Gospel Verse)

ELW setting 8 p. 189

The Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to: **John 3:1-17**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 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.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 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?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 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.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“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. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“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. “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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Congregation will please be seated

The Sermon

Pastor Stephanie Newman

The Congregation will please stand as able

(Lights on after Sermon)

Hymn of the Day

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798 (Vs.1,2,4,5)

** Pass Info Slips to Side Aisle and Prayer cards to the inside aisle*

Apostles Creed

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 into hell.
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.**

The Prayers

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You may now offer a prayer petition either out loud or in your heart. (pause) Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

Offering

Special Music

Larry Miller & Pastor Stephanie Newman

Offertory

I Surrender All

TFF #235 (Vs. 1)

Offering Prayer

**C: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Communion

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angles, with the church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

ELW setting 8 p. 190

P: 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.

The 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.

Invitation to Communion

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

(Please be seated)

Communion Distribution

Lamb of God

Lamb of God

ELW setting 8 p. 191

Communion Hymns

Thy word is a lamp
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
One Bread, One Body
What Feast of Love

W&P 144 (1-2)

W&P 95 (1-4)

ELW 496 (1-3)

ELW 487 (1-3)

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.

C: Amen.

(The Congregation will please stand as able and comfortable)

Pastor's Blessing

Blessing

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW 338 (1,2,3)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.