

Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026 + 9:30 am



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue - Racine, Wisconsin 53403
(262) 634-7998
<https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine>



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.

We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Ojibwe, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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.

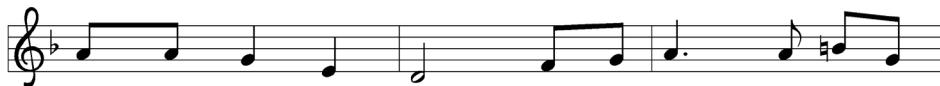
Amen.

Gathering Song

"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" ELW 334, vv. 1-3, Lent 2



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

Lent 2

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.

Greeting

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

And also with you.

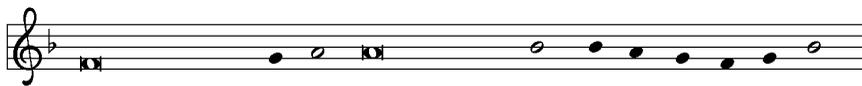
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



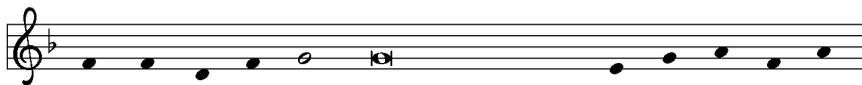
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



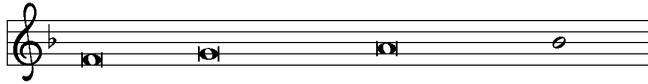
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

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. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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. ² 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. ³ 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.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

- ¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills; from where is my | help to come?
- ² **My help comes | from the LORD, the maker of heav- | en and earth.**
- ³ The LORD will not let your | foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the LORD watches | over you; the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike | you by day, nor the | moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life.
- ⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

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? 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.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God***

Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

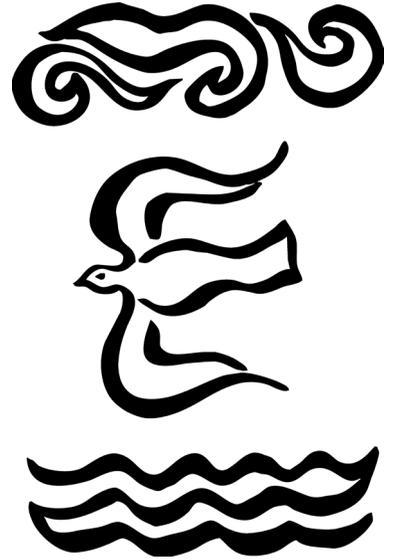
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

John 3:1-17

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. 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Assembly may be seated for the Sermon..

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" ELW #596



- 1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness;
- 2 Whendark-ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un - chang - ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer - it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
when all sup - ports are washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Apostles Creed

**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 Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need. Each petition ends with:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Bonnie Ayers, John Falk, Sue Heckel, Donna Johnson, Linda Bagley, Carmen Falk, Tom Johnson, Mario Miranda, Lynda, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Missy Hoffman, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen, and the family of Delores Phillips.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering



Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well!

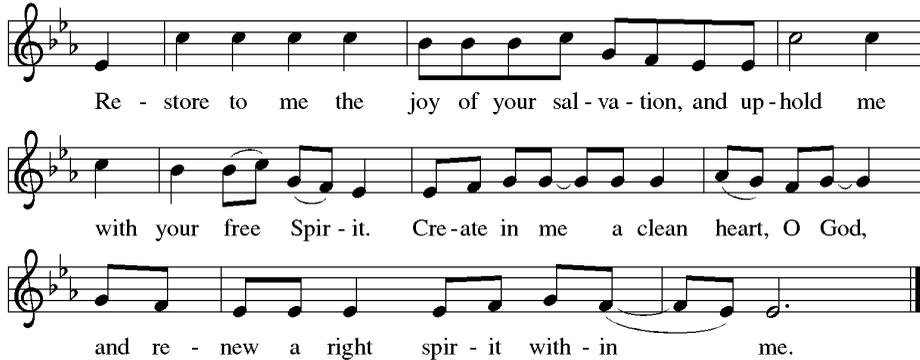
Thank you for your generosity!

Offering Song

The Assembly may rise in body or spirit as the offering is brought forward.

Musical notation for the Offering Song, consisting of three staves of music in a G major key signature (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

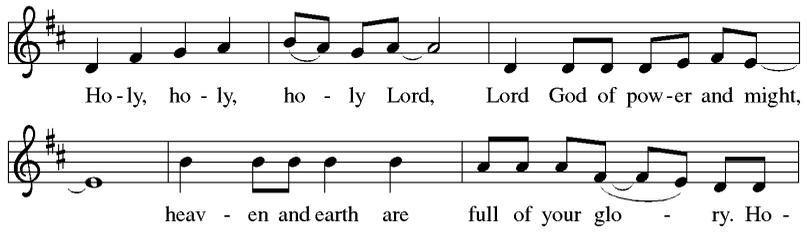
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

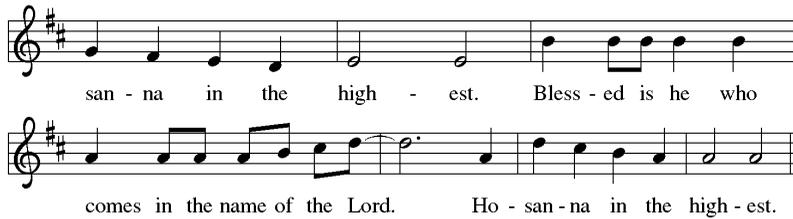
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



The Presiding Minister continues, the Assembly responds when prompted:

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

... Grace your table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

... burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit. ...

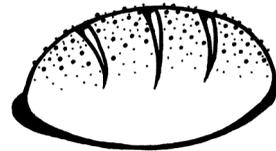
The prayer concludes: Amen.

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

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



Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Song

"God Loved the World" ELW #323

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. 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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

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. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"Surely God is My Salvation" ACS #926
Words and music on following page.

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:	Marion Julius <i>In Memory of Mom and Michael</i>
Assisting Minister:	Lori Rennock
Reader:	Jeanne Schierstedt
Ushers:	Linda & Kevin Rattle
Altar Guild:	Jan Brandies & Jennifer Dustman
Musician:	Paul Berge
Pastor:	The Rev. Matt James

Sending Hymn

"Surely God is My Salvation" ACS #926



1 Sure - ly God is my sal - va - tion,
2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter
3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,



I will trust and shall not fear. God the Lord is
from sal - va - tion's wells and springs. Sing your thanks to
make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the



strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.
God Al - might - y for these won - drous deeds.
God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

Refrain



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!

Sing ho-san - na!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

Text: Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979, based on Isaiah 12:2-6

Music: YISREAL V'ORAITA, Hasidic melody

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This Week @ Redeemer

Wednesday: Mid-Week Lent Meal and Worship:
Soup Supper – 5pm; Worship – 6pm @ Redeemer!!
Thursday: Executive Committee--5:45pm; Council--6pm
Sunday: Sunday Worship – 9:30am

Celebrations this Week

Birthdays: Sheila Fair (3/4); Jim Kasprovich & Trendon Hooper
(3/5); Isabel Marik (3/8)

Upcoming Commemorations

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633

Sunday, March 1, 2026

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

Monday, March 2, 2026

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

Texts for Next Sunday, March 8th, Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42



**MID - WEEK LENTEN
WORSHIP**
PLANTS OF THE
PASSION

March 4 12pm Soup Lunch
1pm Worship
Olive Tree 5pm Soup Dinner
6pm Worship

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
(2417 Drexel Ave, Racine)



We host this Wednesday!

We'll be looking for folks to make soup, provide bread, and set up and host.

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Order Your Easter Flowers Today!

The Altar Guild is accepting orders for flowers to adorn our sanctuary at Easter. You may choose from Easter Lilies, Chrysanthemums, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Regal Geraniums or Tulips, all flowers are \$15 each.

Orders should be turned in by March 9th. Checks should be made payable to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, or scan the code (→) to order online.

If you have any questions please contact Jane Wilson at 262-412-6227.



It's down the road but...SAVE the Date!

Kenosha Kingfish Baseball Game Outing: Sunday, July 12, 2026

At Simmons Field in Kenosha, 7817 Sheridan Road

1:35 p.m., Gates Open at 12:35 p.m.

Tickets are \$31 each. Ticket price includes:

Reserved Stadium Seats behind home plate in a covered grandstand, All-You-Can-Eat ballpark food from when gates open through the 5th inning, three beers, ice cream, *or* kid's games per ticket, All-You-Can-Drink soda and water through the 8th inning.

Watch for a sign-up sheet in June