

2nd
Sunday
in

Lent




St. Paul
Lutheran



Taylor, TX
LCMC

Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

March 1, 2026



FOR GOD SENT NOT HIS SON INTO
THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE
WORLD; BUT THAT THE WORLD
THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED.
JOHN 3:17


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I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE MOUNTAINS-
WHERE DOES MY HELP COME FROM?
MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD,
THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.
- PSALM 121:1-2 -

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



thany



The City of Jerusalem



The Garden of Gethsemane



ate's Judgment Hall



The High Priest's Courtyard



e Mount of Olives

PLACES *of the* PASSION

Wednesdays, February 18 - March 25

St. Paul
Lutheran



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Join Pastor Qualley each Wednesday through March 25th at 2pm in the St. Paul House Conference room for a study of the Places of the Passion.



PORTALS *of* PRAYER



lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

The new Portals of Prayer are available at
the front entrances and in the Narthex

INTRODUCTION

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.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 disdaining 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

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Hymn # 712

**¹ Lord, whose love in humble
service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect
deed:**

Hymn # 712

**we, your servants, bring the
worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.**

Hymn # 712

**2 Still your children wander
homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for
freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.**

Hymn # 712

**As you, Lord, in deep
compassion**

**healed the sick and freed the
soul,**

**by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.**

Hymn # 712

**³ As we worship, grant us
vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and
greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,**

Hymn # 712

**making known the needs and
burdens**

**your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.**

Hymn # 712

**Final Called by worship to your
service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;**

Hymn # 712

**Hope and health, good-will and
comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.**

Hymn # 712

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 mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

*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*

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy

Help, save, comfort, and defend 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

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.

¹ 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.

The word of the Lord.

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 heaven 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 keeper of Israel
will neither slumber 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 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.

¹ 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lenten Acclamation

***Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.***

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John 3:1-17

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.

¹ 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.



CHILDREN'S
SERMON

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

Genesis 12



Hymn of the Day

“Baptized in Water”

Hymn # 456

**¹ Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of
Christ our king:**

Hymn # 456

**heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we
sing.**

Hymn # 456

**² Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ
our king:**

Hymn # 456

**one with his rising,
freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise
we sing.**

Hymn # 456

**Final Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ
our king:**

Hymn # 456

**born of the spirit,
we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we
sing.**

Hymn # 456

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

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

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.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 and we remember our friends and
family members before you.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionary, for Liv in the Middle East, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at First United Lutheran Church in Roseau, Minnesota.

Today we also give you thanks for Zion Lutheran Church in Kerrville, Texas and their pastor Bobby Vitek. Bless their work for your Kingdom's sake.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven 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.***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

COMMUNION

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line
and at the altar rail.*

Lamb of God Pg. 146

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.***



Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

Sending Song

“My Life Flow On in Endless Song”

Hymn # 763

**¹ My life flows on in endless
song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-
off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

Hymn # 763

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

**No storm can shake my inmost
calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

Hymn # 763

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven
and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Hymn # 763

**2 Through all the tumult and
the strife,**

I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul.

How can I keep from singing?

[Refrain]

Hymn # 763

[Refrain]

**No storm can shake my inmost
calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

Hymn # 763

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven
and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Hymn # 763

**3 What though my joys and
comforts die?**

The Lord my Savior liveth.

**What though the darkness
gather round?**

Songs in the night he giveth.

[Refrain]

Hymn # 763

[Refrain]

**No storm can shake my inmost
calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

Hymn # 763

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven
and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Hymn # 763

Final The peace of Christ

makes fresh my heart,

a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am

his!

How can I keep from singing?

[Refrain]

Hymn # 763

[Refrain]

**No storm can shake my inmost
calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

Hymn # 763

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven
and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Hymn # 763

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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