

March 1, 2026 | 8:30am



# Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Second Sunday in Lent

## How's Your Credit?



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# Order of Worship

Second Sunday in Lent | 8:30 am | March 1, 2026

## Welcome and Announcements

## Invitation to Worship

## Opening Hymn      *(Please Stand)*

### *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

LW #97

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov'reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?  
Was it for sins that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!  
Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in.  
When God, the mighty maker, died for His own creatures' sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my eyes to tears.

But tears of grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away: it's all that I can do.

## Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## Confession

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

## Absolution

C: Amen.

## Kyrie

*page 179*

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.

## Hymn of Praise

*This is the Feast*

*page 182*

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength  
And honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all  
creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the  
Lamb forever. Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God,

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia,  
alleluia.

## Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together:

C: Loving Father, thank you for sending Your Son into the world that we might have eternal life. We ask that You would fill us with Your Spirit, to help us in our unbelief and to increase our faith every day. Give us humble and contrite hearts so that we

might serve You and our neighbors. We pray in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

First Reading

*(Please Sit)*

*Genesis 12:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>Now 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. <sup>2</sup>And 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. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

*Romans 4:1-8, 13-17*

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works,

he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count  
his sin.”

<sup>13</sup> For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup> 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel

*(Please Stand)*

*John 3:1-17*

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to

him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God!

## 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 worshipped 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 of the world to come. Amen.

(\* "us men" means "all people")

Children's Message (*Please Sit*) Eric Oswald, DCE

## Hymn of the Day

*All Who Believe and Are Baptized*      LW #225

All who believe and are baptized shall see the Lord's salvation;

Baptized into the death of Christ, they are a new creation;  
Through Christ's redemption they will stand  
Among the glorious heav'nly band of ev'ry tribe and  
nation.

With one accord, O God, we pray, grant us Your Holy Spirit;  
Help us in our infirmity through Jesus' blood and merit;  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
By holy Baptism that we may eternal life inherit.

## Sermon

*How's Your Credit?*

Pastor Phil Alexander

## Gathering of our Tithes and Offerings

*Bringing tithes and financial gifts to the Lord is an act of  
worship. These offerings help to accomplish ministry both here  
at Bethlehem and around the world. May God bless your  
response of faith.*

Please join our members in signing the Red Friendship Register in  
your pew. Thank you!

## Prayers of the Church

*Many of our prayer concerns and needs can be found at the end  
of this service folder.*

## Lord's Prayer *(Please Stand)*

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.

## Words of Institution

### Agnus Dei

*page 191*

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.

### Distribution of Holy Communion *(Please Sit)*

*see information on inside cover page*

### Distribution Hymns

***God Loved the World So That He Gave* LW #352  
tune: 362**

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.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death;

All who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.

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

firmer ground of faith.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins  
which you have done;

You're justified by Jesus' blood; baptized, you have the  
highest good.

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

*All Depends on Our Possessing*

LW #415

All depends on our possessing God's free grace and  
constant blessing,

Though all earthly wealth depart. They who trust with faith  
unshaken

By their God are not forsaken and will keep a dauntless  
heart.

He who to this day has fed me and to many joys has led  
me

Is and ever shall be mine. He who did so gently school me,  
He who daily guides and rules me will remain my help  
divine.

Many spend their lives in fretting over trifles and in getting  
Things that lack all solid ground. I shall strive to win a  
treasure

That will bring me lasting pleasure and that now is seldom  
found.

When with sorrow I am stricken, hope anew my heart will  
quicken,

All my longing shall be stilled. To His loving-kindness  
tender

Soul and body I surrender, for on God alone I build.  
Well He knows what best to grant me; all the longing  
hopes that haunt me,  
Joy and sorrow, have their day. I shall doubt His wisdom  
never;  
As God wills, so be it ever; I commit to Him my way.  
If my days on earth He lengthen, God my weary soul will  
strengthen;  
All my trust in Him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,  
Like a stream away is gliding; safe in anchor in His grace.

### Communion Blessing (*Please Stand*)

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ strengthen and preserve you in true faith unto life  
everlasting.

C: Amen.

### Post Communion Prayer

P: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have  
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You  
that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the  
same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one  
another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.

C: Amen.

### Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face  
to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord

look upon you with His favor and give you peace.  
C:Amen.

## Closing Hymn

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

LW #220

Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this  
barren land.

I am weak, but You are mighty; hold me with Your pow'rful  
hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and  
evermore;

Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters  
flow;

Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey  
through.

Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with Your  
mighty arm,

Shield me with Your mighty arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears  
subside;

Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on  
Canaan's side.

Songs and praises, songs and praises I will raise  
forevermore;

I will raise forevermore.

## Sending

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C:Thanks be to God.

**Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**All Who Believe and Are Baptized**

Text: Thomas H> Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860-1943, alt.

Tune: Etlich Christlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524

Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**God Loved the World So that He Gave**

Text: L. Bollhagen, Heiliges Lippen-und Herzens-Opfer, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1560-1615

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**All Depends on Our Possessing**

Text: Gesang-Buch, Nurnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78, alt.

Tune: Johann Lohner, 1645-1705; adapt. Johann B Konig, 1691-1758

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**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

Text: William Williams, 1717-91; tr. Composite, alt.

Tune: John Hughes, 1873-1932

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