

Contemporary Worship

Unfinished: Called to Openness

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

Here I Am to Worship – Tim Hughes

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore You. Hope of a life spent with You.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down. Here I am to say that You're my God.

You're all together lovely, all together worthy, all together wonderful to me.

Light of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.

Humbly You came to the Earth You created. All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

WELCOME

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION *

Mercy on This Fallen World

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

The Praise Team sings the refrain and then the Assembly joins in singing the refrain.

The Leader and the Assembly join in prayer and all join in the refrain as indicated.

Refrain

Have mer - cy on this fal - len world. Have mercy on us. Have

mer - cy on this fal - len world, mer - cy Lord have mercy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Have mer - cy on this fal - len world. Have mercy on us. Have'. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics: 'mer - cy on this fal - len world, mer - cy Lord have mercy on us.' The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Leader: Gracious God,

Assembly: we confess that we fail to be open to your vision for the world.
In our confusion amid all that is unfinished in our lives
we close ourselves off from where and how your Spirit calls.

Forgive us,

**and open our hearts and minds so that cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,
we may live into the new life you have bestowed upon us,
for the sake of the Gospel,
for the sake of the world.**

Refrain

Leader: God who is rich in mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love
has come to us in Jesus, who by his holy cross has redeemed the world.
Buried with Christ by baptism into death,
our sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name.
Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,
we are raised to new life.
Almighty God strengthen you in faith
to live each day renewed in God's call for your life.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

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.

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

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

PRAYERS *

*The Praise Team sings the refrain and then the Assembly joins in singing the refrain.
The Leader offers the prayer petitions and the Assembly joins in the refrain as indicated.*



Leader: Faithful God, you called Abraham to walk by faith
and made him a blessing to the nations.
Strengthen your church to trust your promises
and to share the good news of new life in Christ...*Refrain*

Leader: God of new birth, you sent your Son not to condemn the world but to save it.
Renew us by your Spirit,
and help us walk as children of light in a world that longs for hope...*Refrain*

Leader: Watchful God, you guard our going out and our coming in.
Protect those who travel, refugees and migrants, and all who live in fear.
Guide leaders to work for justice and peace...*Refrain*

Leader: Compassionate God, you justify by grace and lift up those in need.
Be near to all who are sick, grieving, or burdened.
Surround them with your healing presence and steadfast care...*Refrain*

Leader: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior...*Refrain*

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

*The assembly greets each other with
"peace be with you...and also with you."*

*You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.
If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.*

OFFERING

There Is a Redeemer – Melody Green

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.



*There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah Holy One.*

*Thank you, O, my Father for giving us your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

*Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinner's slain.*

*When I stand in glory, I will see his face,
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

Remember Me

(Praise Team)

All: So, we thank You for the wine and for the bread;
 For we see the life You gave and the blood You shed.
 And we remember Your wondrous love,
 You gave Your body, You shed Your blood;
 And we remember Your wondrous love,
 You gave your body, You shed Your blood.

*"Remember Me" words and music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin Nystrom
© 1990 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
CCLI License No. 1841035*

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of
the cups and packaging after the service.*

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

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

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you
Communion Receiver: Amen.

Jesus Loves Me

Verse1: Jesus loves me!
This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.

Verse 2: Jesus loves me!
He who died heaven's gates to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in...*chorus*

Verse 3: Jesus loves me!
He will stay close beside me all the way;
When at last I come to die, He will take me home on high...*chorus*

*Words: Anna B. Warner, Music: William Bradbury
Public Domain*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Leader: 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.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Assembly: Amen.

SONG *

God Sends Us Forth



1. God sends us forth to love and serve,
2. Nour-ished by Christ with word and bread,
3. Called to the ones the world ig - nores—
4. So, with the cross to lead the way,



make known God's name, and live God's word,
burn - ing with love and Spir - it - led,
hun - gry and thirst - y, weak and poor—
let us go forth in peace to - day



mir - ror God's love, re - flect God's grace till
sent to em - brace a world in need, to
let us bear Christ, who heals all pain and
till ev - 'ry end of earth has known the



all have seen the Sav - ior's face.
make God known in word and deed.
com - forts those with guilt or shame.
sav - ing love of God a - lone.

Copyright © 2009 by GIA Publications, Inc. • All Rights Reserved

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Share God's love with the world.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God!**

.....

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Lisa Parrott, Director of Sunday School
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Praise Team

.....

FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jean Elin
and in memory of other loved ones.*

.....

Service Music & Liturgy reprinted and broadcast under OneLicense.net # A-722064, Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SBW0464223 & CCLI # 1841035(reprint) & #20141603 (Streaming)
Scripture quotations New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.
Worship resources from sundaysandseasons.com © 2025 Augsburg Fortress & "Unfinished" ©2023 Church Anew.

.....