

# Traditional 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

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

### PRELUDE

*What Wondrous Love Is This – arr. Zach Unke*

### RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL \*

*As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Welcome & Opening Hymn.*

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

### WELCOME \*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

### OPENING HYMN #831 – Verses 1-4 \*

*The God of Abraham Praise*

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS \*

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

**Through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is labeled 'Leader' and the second 'Assembly'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' on the first line; 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' on the second line; and 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' on the third line. The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs over the words 'mer - cy'.

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.

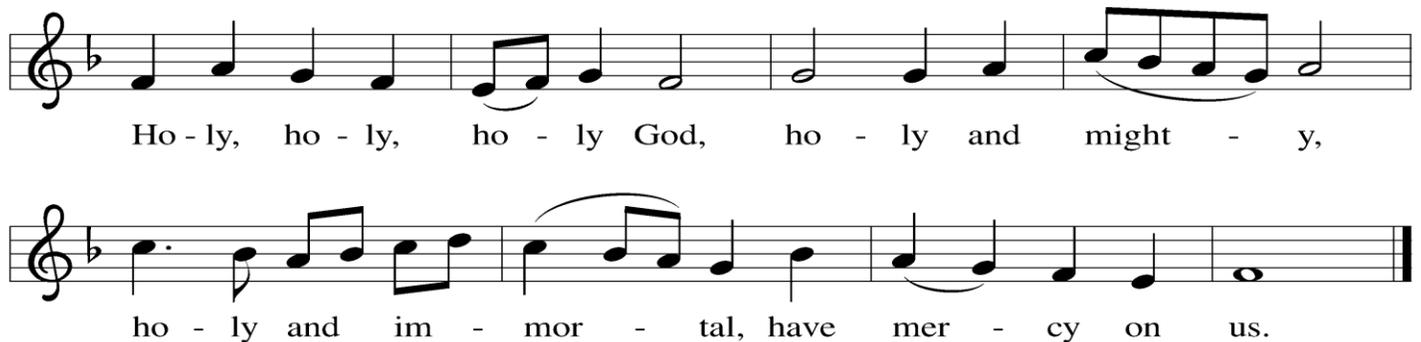
Almighty God strengthen you in faith

to live each day renewed in God's call for your life.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## TRISAGION \*

*This ancient hymn of the church translates as “thrice holy” and is sung in place of the Hymn of Praise (“Glory to God” or “This is the Feast”) during Lent.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,  
ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY \*

Leader: Let us pray.

Open the eyes of our hearts to the mysteries of your saving love, O God,  
that we might grasp the hope to which you have called us.  
Give us a bold understanding of your unfolding vision for us and for your world.  
Accompany us on our seeking journey,  
and lead us to where you would have us to go.  
In the name of † Jesus,

Assembly: 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.*

<sup>1</sup> 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> 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 the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> 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.

*The Cantor sings the Psalm Refrain and then the Assembly joins in the refrain.  
The Cantor sings the Psalm Verses and the Assembly joins in each refrain as indicated.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
my help comes from the LORD.

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

## 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.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor 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 reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

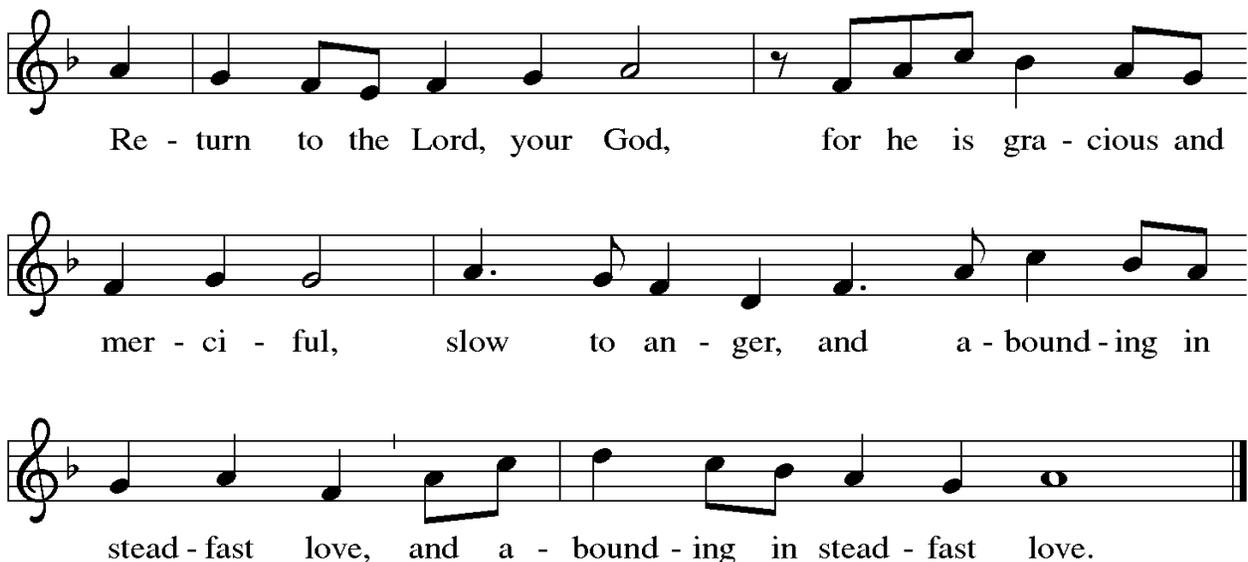
<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> 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, <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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION \*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### GOSPEL LESSON \*

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.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

<sup>4</sup> 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?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> 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." <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> "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. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "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.

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #323 \***

*God Loved the World*

## **APOSTLE'S CREED \***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 \***

*The assembly responds to each petition ending in "Hear us, O God."*

**Assembly: Your mercy is great.**

*The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation."*

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **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.*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.*

## **OFFERING**

*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 will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.*

*Gifts can also be given electronically using the QR Code.*



8:00 – *O Love of God, How Strong and True* - arr. Howard Helvey

*O love of God, how strong and true,  
eternal and yet ever new, uncomprehended and unbought,  
beyond all knowledge and all thought!*

*O wide-embracing, wondrous love!  
We read You in the sky above, we read You in the earth below,  
in seas that swell and streams that flow.*

*We read Your power to bless and save, even in the darkness of the grave;  
still more in resurrection light we read the fullness of your might.*

*O love of God, our shield and stay Through all the perils of our ways!  
Eternal love, in you we rest, forever safe, forever blest.*

11:00 – *God So Loved the World* – Wayne Wold

*God so loved the world that he gave his only son,  
so that all who believe should never perish, but live forever.  
God so loved the world.*

*God did not send his Son for condemnation;  
God sent his Son so that all might be saved through him.*

## OFFERTORY \*

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING \*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Assembly: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: 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.  
By your gracious promise you called Abraham  
and made him the father of many nations.  
By water and the Spirit you give us new birth from above,  
and in steadfast love you sent your Son  
not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

As we journey through this holy season,  
renew us in your covenant of grace,  
that, trusting in your promises,  
we may walk as children of the light.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The musical score is written on seven staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, featuring a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. A four-measure rest is indicated at the beginning of the first staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the seventh staff.

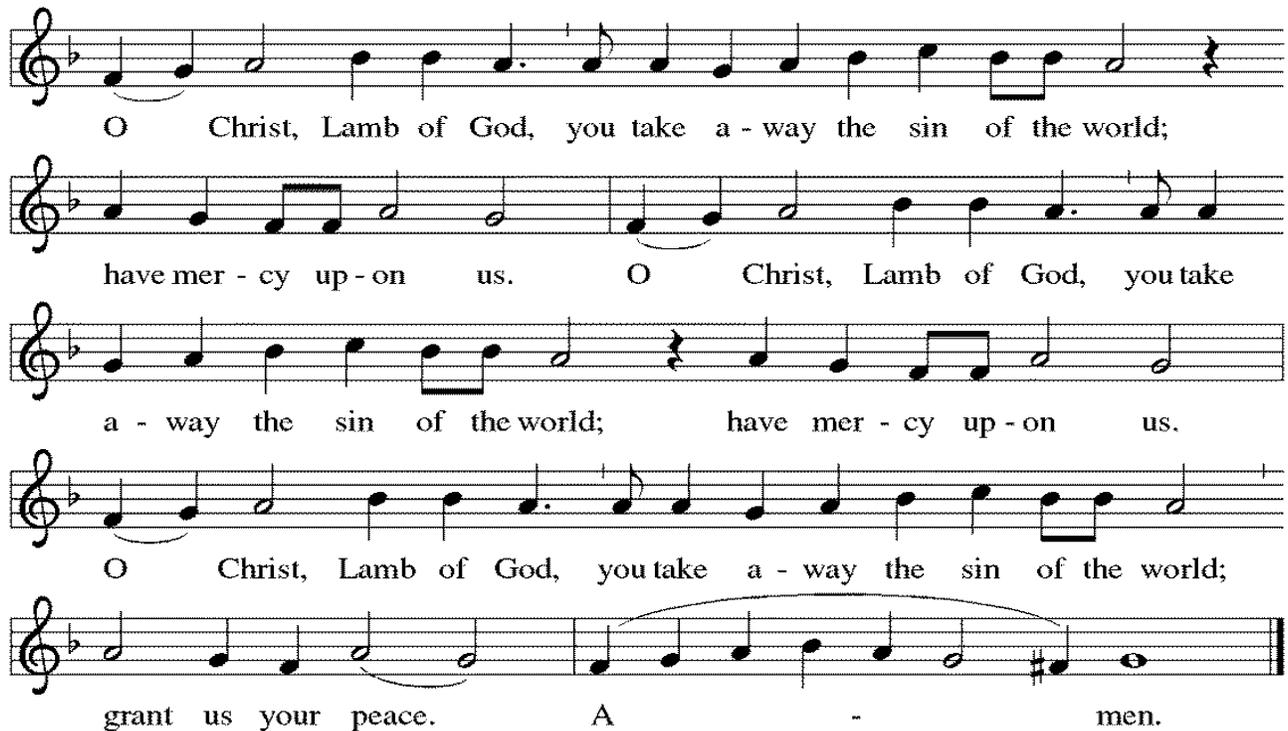
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is  
he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION \***

## 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.

## LAMB OF GOD \*



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take  
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

## 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.

Music at Distribution – *My Song Is Love Unknown*  
8:00 & 11:10 – Organ – arr. Michael Burkhardt  
11:10 – Hymn #343

## **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.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **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.**

### **SENDING HYMN #666 \***

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

### **DISMISSAL \***

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

**Assembly: Thanks be to God!**

### **POSTLUDE \***

*Chromatic Fugue – Johann Pachelbel*

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**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor  
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family  
Susan Quintenz, 8:00 Lector & Communion Assistant  
Katie Berry, 11:10 Lector  
Carolyn Martin, 11:10 Communion Assistant  
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music  
Robin Terschak, Cantor  
Jane McFadden, 11:10 Chancel Choir Accompanist

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**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.*

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