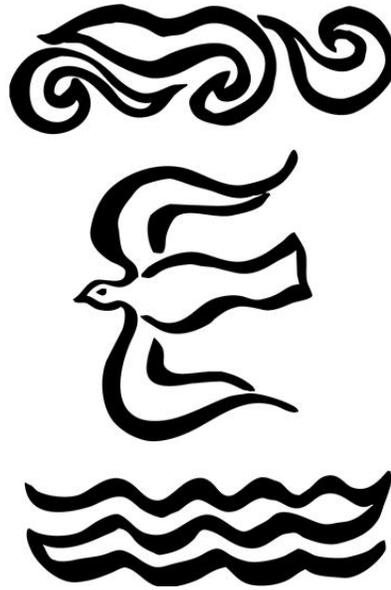


Second Sunday in Lent



Word and Sacrament

“Little Church with a BIG Heart”

Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church

March 1, 2026 11:00AM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Worship!

This morning we celebrate the **Second Sunday in Lent**. The lyrics to the hymns are in the red hymnals in the pews.

We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that all of God's people are always welcome here at St. Bartholomew.

Holy Communion

Saint Bart's celebrates the real presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. We invite all to come and share. At the time of communion, you will come up to the Altar and receive the elements.

Praying People

Everyone is invited to offer their prayer concerns during the Prayers of the Church.

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.

Announcements

We will have a **children's sermon** today. Afterwards, children will leave for the **nursery**.

Our second **Lenten dinner/worship service** will be Wednesday at St. Bart's at 6:30 p.m.

Remember to **set your clocks forward** next Saturday night!

Bell Choir will meet Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study will continue next Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

The **Eternal Candle** is lit this month in memory of Beth Peroni, donated by Debbie Formoso.

We can use any food or monetary donations to help our community in need.

Are there any other announcements?

Bell/Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdainning the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P 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.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 335

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C **And also with you**

■ Kyrie



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer Of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Children's Sermon and Nursery

WORD

A I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1). Lord, bless the reading of your word. Make it come alive in our midst.

C **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

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.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 121

A ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

C ² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

A ³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

C ⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
A ⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
C ⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
A ⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
C 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

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.

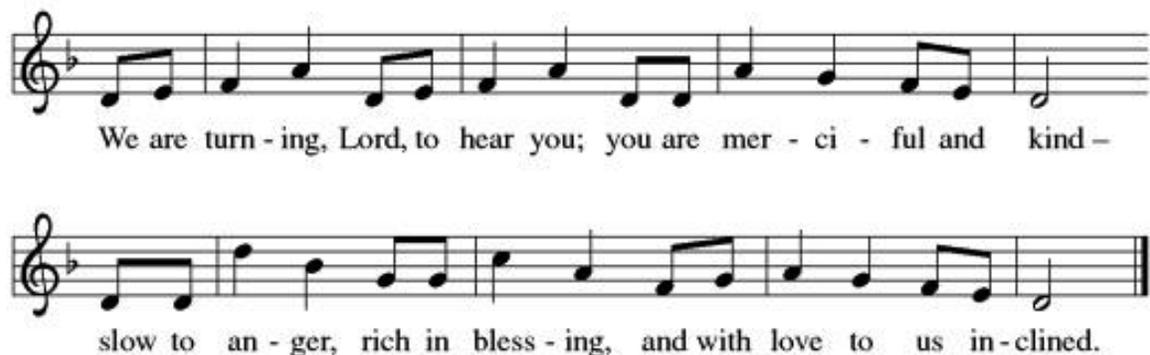
¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there 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.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

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.

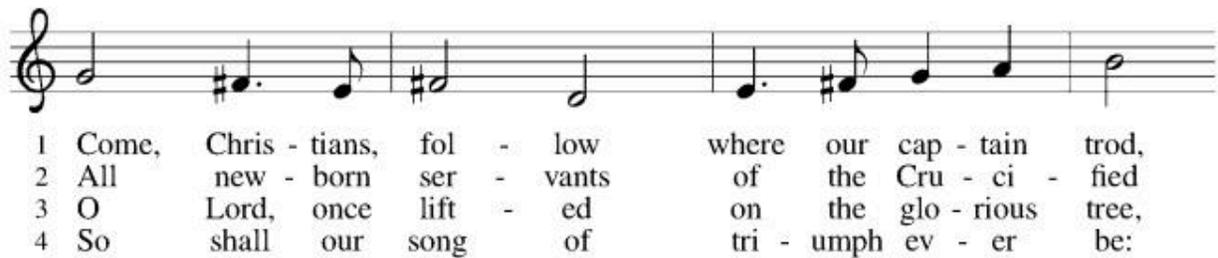
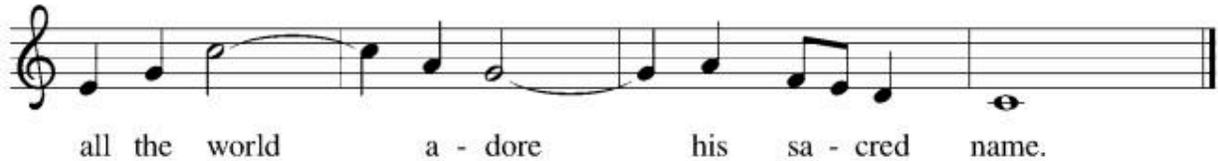
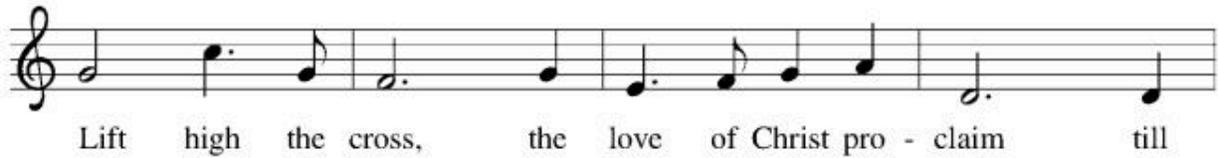
¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord
C Praise to you **O Christ**.

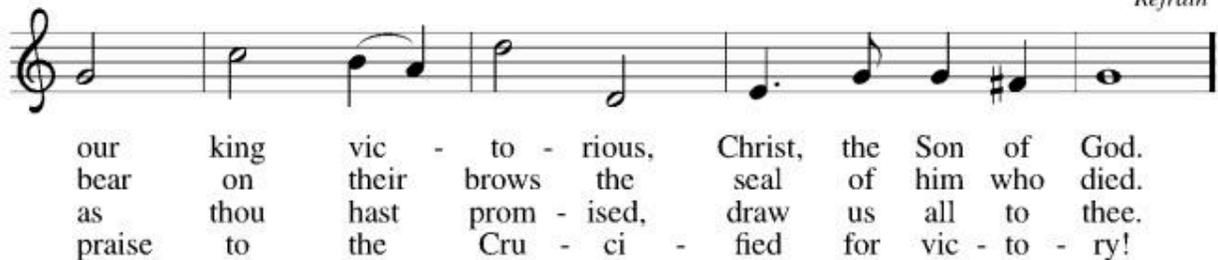
SERMON

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 660

Lift High the Cross



Refrain



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you**

Apostle's Creed

P Let us all affirm our faith by using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C 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

Each petition ends:

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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, *especially in Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, and the United States.* 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 (*especially Joe, Nick, Bob, Justin, Billy, Gloria, Rosemary, Nelson, Tom, Shirley, Rich, Heather, and Gail*). 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 left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our partner churches: Abiding Presence and Prince of Peace; We pray for our Bishop Christa Compton; We also pray for the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays; and for those celebrating anniversaries; also for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

At this time, you may offer up prayers for loved ones, thanksgivings to God, or any other intercessions silently or aloud... **(Pause)** 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, especially Beth and Steve, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

THE OFFERING

Offering Prayer

A O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C It is right to give thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
forever praising you and singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
 you have brought us this far along the way.
 In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us
 into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets
 to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
 our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
 In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
 to preach good news to the afflicted,
 to break bread with the outcast and despised,
 and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

C 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, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

All are welcome at God's Table. If you would like to share in communion with us today, you are more than welcome to do so. There are no prerequisites at God's table and nothing we do to earn a seat at the table, it is freely given to us by God. Please, come and eat!

Distribution

TABLE BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

C Amen.

+Sending+

Benediction

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
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.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW # 638

Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C Thanks be to God

Postlude