

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Introduction to the day

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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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.

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.

Psalm: Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord. (*Ps. 121:1, 2*)

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.

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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT - A New Thing Is Underway

“How can anyone be born after having grown old?” asks Nicodemus (John 3:4), articulating a question that we as the church continue to ask today. Change is hard. Transformation seems impossible. And yet, Jesus responds that in baptism we are made as new as if we had been born again, with a new heart able to perceive the reign of God. All things are possible with God!

Nicodemus is justifiably perplexed by this proclamation. We may resonate with his confusion as we look at the world around us and in the mirror before us, wondering if anything can ever truly change. Can the violence and suffering of war ever truly end? Can this broken relationship be mended? Can this illness be healed? Can hatred, oppression, and abuse be thwarted, transformed by the power of love? When we look around us, change may seem in short supply.

And yet, when we get curious, we may also become aware of signs of change, transformation, and rebirth emerging all around us. In northern regions, we can see the melting snow and first shoots of green from rousing plants, signaling the change from winter to spring. We can see mutual aid networks, community care efforts, and collective action emerge in response to social and political chaos. We can sense the tug of the Holy Spirit on our hearts, calling us toward deeper humility, compassion, and solidarity as we live in the hope of Christ.

The Lenten call—to set down what we can to attend more fully to God—draws us into a posture of curiosity that may deepen our awareness of the small but potent ways God’s kingdom is already breaking in all around us. “Do not be astonished,” says Jesus (v. 7); a new thing is underway.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. 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. *Especially we pray for* Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Barbara Kant, Glenda Panke, Marilyn Schneider, Doug Sell, Debbie Thom and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence we name out loud or in the Quiet of our hearts those who need your healing touch. 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.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Announcements:

Sunday, March 1st – 2nd Sunday of Lent

10:30 AM – Grace – Holy Communion

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Monday, March 2nd

9:00 to 3:00 – Grace Quilters

4:00 – Confirmation Class

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Tuesday, March 3rd

10:00 AM – Grace Bible Study

Wednesday, March 4th

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM – Grace Tie Quilting

Thursday March 5th

9:00 – 11:30 – Toy Bus

10:00 – Grace Choir

Friday, March 6th

9:00 – 11:30 – Toy Bus Parents

3:00 – Woman's World Day of Prayer @ Grace

Sunday, March 8th – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Time Change to Daylight Savings Time

10:30 AM – Grace – Service of the Word

2:00 PM – St. Patty's Variety Show

Lent is upon us and Easter Sunday will soon be here!

Please join us for Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 5, 2026
from 8:15 am until 10:15 am.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help or donate food/money for the breakfast is greatly appreciated.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex for a number of weeks prior to the breakfast or you can be in touch with Janice Nagora at 613-735-1732 or janice.nagora@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to volunteer or donate in any way.

Plan to attend for a delicious meal and fellowship on this special occasion.
Everyone is welcome!