

Second Sunday in Lent

March 4-5, 2023



OUR GREATEST NEEDS



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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www.salemlutheran.org

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Gracious Holy Spirit, you come to us through your Word to create pure hearts within us and to renew our strength to serve. Bless our praise today and help us live lives of holiness. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: The greatest needs are often defined by how widespread the need is. When Jesus said, "No one can enter the kingdom of God," he declared that the need for salvation is universal to all people. No one on the face of the earth can make the case that they deserve God's blessing. Yet God declared his love for the world and promised he would save the world. God's gift of salvation is meant for all people. Some interpret this to mean that all people will be saved in the end. This is not true. The gift of salvation is offered to all but only received by faith. "Whoever believes in him..." the Gospel says. Thank God the faith we need is also God's gift, given through the Word!

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: Our greatest needs are universal. We all live under the curse of sin, leaving us utterly helpless in our natural state. Left in sin, people are doomed to death, spiritually, physically, and eternally. Lent is the season of the Church Year where we wrestle with our greatest needs, but also find that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. This Lent, the Spirit makes one thing clear: If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

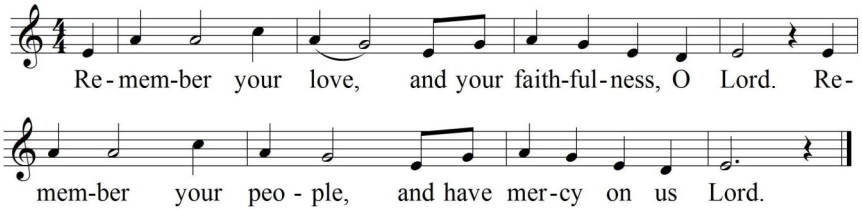
Organ: Luke Dorn

Order of Worship



Gathering Rite: Remember Your Love

All: Refrain



M: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? The Lord is my life and my refuge, when I call, God hears.

C: **(Sing Refrain)**

M: If you dwelt, O Lord, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand? But with you there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand.

C: **(Sing Refrain)**

M: O Lord, hear the sound of my call and answer me. My heart cries out for your presence; it is you I seek.

C: **(Sing Refrain)**

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

C: **Amen.**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

- M: 1. Lord Jesus, obedient in the desert: (*Sing line below*)
 2. Christ Jesus, the promise of salvation: (*Sing line below*)
 3. Lord Jesus, the flood of living water: (*Sing line below*)

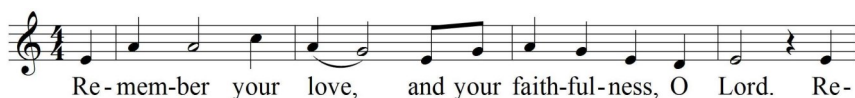


- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. P: Lord have mer - cy. | C: Lord have mer - cy. |
| 2. P: Christ have mer - cy. | C: Christ have mer - cy. |
| 3. P: Lord have mer - cy. | C: Lord have mer - cy. |

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

All: Refrain



Re-mem-ber your love, and your faith-ful-ness, O Lord. Re-



mem-ber your peo - ple, and have mer-cy on us Lord.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-8

The LORD promised Abram that one of his descendants would be a gift for the world. The LORD also gave Abram the gift of faith to trust that promise.

¹The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

²"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

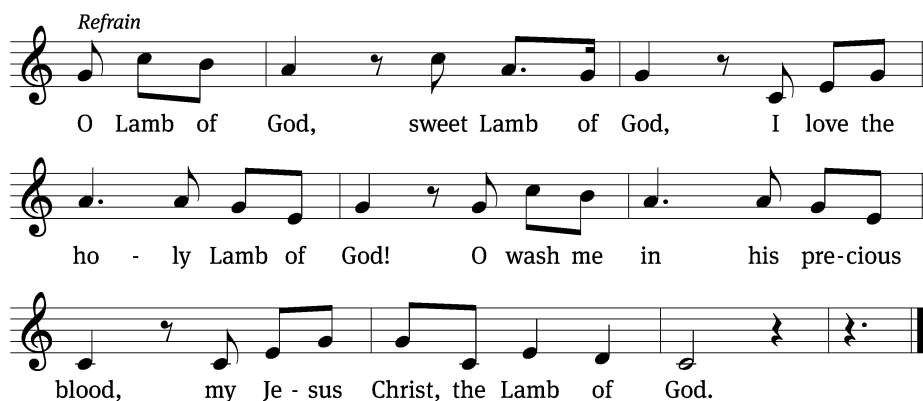
M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn Response: Lamb of God

CW 550 st. 1

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.



Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Abraham provides an example of how salvation is not earned but received as a gift through faith.

¹What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ²If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

¹³It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

¹⁷As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn Response: Lamb of God

CW 550 st. 2

2 Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied, they laughed and
scorned him as he died: the hum - ble King they named a
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the
ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre - cious
blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Please stand.

Gospel

John 3:1-18

By sharing the gospel of the God's love for the world, Jesus gave the gift of faith to a Pharisee named Nicodemus

¹Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the

Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

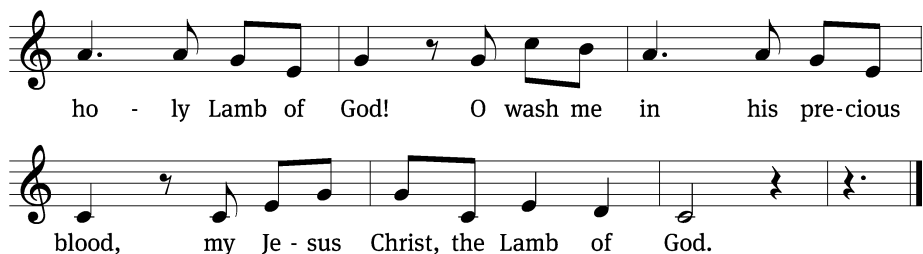
C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Hymn Response: Lamb of God

CW 550 st. 3

3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and
rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the



Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: God Loved the World So That He Gave CW 570



- 2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with
6 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Sermon

Based on Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

"Thank God for the Gift!"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated.

Offering




 **Connect Card**

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



 **Give Online**

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

M: Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the world in which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

C: Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

M: Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

C: Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

M: The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

C: Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

M: Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

C: Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

M: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

C: Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M: Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

C: Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -
liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the
pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

CW 523



1 How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all
2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his
3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no



mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his



make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?



The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with



Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

February WELS Connection

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Our Greatest Needs—Water for the Thirsty

Bible Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-26

Hymns: 526, 703, 677, 394

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

