

Second Sunday in Lent March 1, 2026

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dennis Lesher

Let us worship God,
for whom our souls thirst and our bodies long.
Listen, listen to me,
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.
We have come to hear the Word God has sent.
God's Word will not return empty
but will accomplish through us his holy purpose.
Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
Then we will go out with joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills will sing;
the trees of the field will clap their hands.

—based on Isaiah 55:2, 11-12; John 4:24

 **INVOCATION**

Dennis Lesher

O God, in creation you fashion us in your image,
in Christ you reveal to us your love,
through the Holy Spirit you welcome us into the fellowship of believers;
we bow in gratitude before you.
We constantly distort your image, but still you restore it.
We daily betray your love, but still you extend it.
We often disrupt fellowship, but still you bless it.
Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord,
that your image in us might be revealed, your love for us returned,
and our fellowship in Christ renewed. **Amen.**

 **OPENING HYMN 228** *Rejoice, The Lord Is King*

CONFESSING: *God invites us to be honest with Him*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dennis Lesher

Is not this the fast I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice;
to share your bread with the hungry;
to bring the homeless poor into your house;
to clothe the naked?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly.
Having heard these promises, let us confess our sins.

—based on Isaiah 58:6-8, NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dennis Lesher

Almighty God,
you despise nothing you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that, truly repenting of our sins
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness,
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Dennis Lesher

The Lord God said:
I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
I will remove from you your heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.
Brothers and sisters: In Christ, all God's promises are "Yes."
Hear the good news: Through Christ,
our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!
—based on Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Corinthians 1:20, NIV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God



GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men*

OFFERING: *Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him*

INVITATION What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?
I will give what I have promised in the presence of all God's people.
—from Psalm 116:12, 14, NRSV

OFFERING

OFFERTORY #433 *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

 **DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

 **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,
we bring our gifts to you, O God.
Help us to give with them
a ready mind,
a willing spirit,
and a joyful heart. **Amen.**

 **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You
All: And also with you*

 **PREPARATION HYMN 275** *How Firm A Foundation*

PROCLAIMING: *God speaks to us through His Word*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Our Lord and our God,
now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit.
Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence.
Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth.
Shape our wills that we may desire your ways.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING *Ephesians 3:14-21*

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON *“Growing in God”
Rev. Dan Stewart*

 **HYMN OF RESPONSE 97** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Pastoral Prayer

Holy God, you are mighty in power yet abounding in mercy.
While our world was marred with sin,
so much so that we had no hope of redemption,
you made a covenant with your people.
You promised to renew your creation.
You promised to give hope amid the sorrow,
healing in place of sickness, wholeness in place of emptiness.
You stepped into our darkness in the person of Jesus Christ.
Our Lord and Savior lived among us.
He, God before the beginning of time,
willingly came to live at a specific place in a specific time.
He came quietly to a young unwed mother
through the power of your Holy Spirit.
He experienced our human joys and sorrows.
The Lord of the universe became a helpless boy.
He ate, he drank, he grew.
He was like us but without sin.
Then the King of kings showed us how to live.
He healed the sick, cared for the least of society, and took time for children.
He forgave sins and performed miracles.
He loved, and he served.
He gave up his very life for his friends.
He died the excruciating, disgraceful death of a criminal for us.
Yet you raised him out of the tomb.
He triumphed over death so that we too may live.
On the night before our Lord died, he ate with his disciples.
As we so often do, Jesus began with prayer.
He took the bread and the cup, and he shared them with his friends,
saying, "This is my body given for you. This cup is poured out for you.
My body and my blood are given for the forgiveness of your sins.
Do this in remembrance of me."
So, loving God, we do, in obedience to your command,
eat the bread and drink from the cup.
As we do, we remember with awe and gratitude
the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of all, Savior, Anointed One.
We rejoice that your great love through our Redeemer's sacrifice has set us free
and given us hope for a future with you.
Until our Lord Jesus returns to establish his kingdom without end,
we will joyfully proclaim his death and resurrection.

Distribution of the Elements

The Words of Jesus.....

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come
again!**

RESPONDING: *We respond to God's Word*

PROFESSION OF FAITH (Apostle's Creed, In Unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And 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 buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

COMMISSIONING: *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

 **COMMISSION HYMN 514** *In My Heart There Rings a Melody*

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

 *Please stand if you are able.*