

## --PRAYERS

*(Sung at beginning of prayers)*

**“The Spirit Intercedes For Us”** (Romans 8:26)

The Spirit intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words to express, oh, oh, oh.

*The pastor will conclude the prayers with:*

*“Holy Spirit, in our weakness, help us to pray...”*

*(Sung at end of the prayers)*

**“The Spirit Intercedes For Us”** (Romans 8:26)

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## --THE 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**

## --WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### --SONGS FOR DISTRIBUTION

**“You Are My King (Amazing Love)”**

Verse...I’m forgiven because You were forsaken; I’m accepted; You were condemned; I’m alive and well, Your Spirit is within me because You died and rose again.

Repeat Verse...

Chorus...Amazing Love, how can it be that You, my King, would die for me? Amazing Love, I know it’s true; it’s my joy to honor You; in all I do, I honor You.

Repeat Verse and Chorus...

Bridge...You are my King. You are my King. Jesus, You are my King. Jesus, You are my King.

Repeat Chorus and Bridge, then... Amazing Love!!!

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**“We Fall Down”** (Revelation 5:8b)

Verse...We fall down, we lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus, the greatness of His mercy and love at the feet of Jesus.

Chorus...And we cry holy, holy, holy, and we cry holy, holy, holy, and we cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb. Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb. (c) 1998 worshiptogether.com songs, CCLI #918029

## --COMMUNION DISMISSAL

## --BENEDICTION

### --CLOSING SONG “You Never Let Go”

(Psalm 23:4; 27:1, Romans 8:41, 2 Peter 1:19, 1 John 4:18)

Verse 1...Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Your perfect love is casting out fear. And even when I’m caught in the middle of the storms of this life, I won’t turn back, I know You are near.

Channel...And I will fear no evil. For my God is with me. And if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

Chorus...Oh no, You never let go through the calm and through the storm. Oh no, You never let go in every high and every low. Oh no, You never let go, Lord, You never let go of me.

Verse 2...And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on, a glorious light beyond all compare. And there will be an end to these troubles, but until that day comes, we’ll live to know You here on the earth.

Sing Channel and Chorus...

Verse 3...Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on, And there will be an end to these troubles, but until that day comes, Still I will praise You, still I will praise You.

Sing Chorus twice...

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L. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**C. Thanks be to God!**

<b>Sermon Reader</b> James Boldt <b>Elder</b> Wayne Meyer <b>Worship Assistant</b> Mark Prieve <b>Soundboard</b> Braxton and Neal Weeg
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## THE CONNECTION

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

10:30am

### --PRESERVICE SONG

**“The Cross Has the Final Word”**

### --WELCOME

### --ANNOUNCEMENTS

**--WORSHIP SONG “I Will Lift My Eyes”** (Ps. 121:1-2)

Verse 1...God, my God, I cry out. Your beloved needs You now. God, be near, calm my fear, and take my doubt. Your kindness is what pulls me up. Your love is all that draws me in.

Chorus...I will lift my eyes to the Maker of the mountains I can’t climb. I will lift my eyes to the Calmer of the oceans raging wild. I will lift my eyes to the Healer of the hurt I hold inside. I will lift my eyes, lift my eyes to You.

Verse 2...God, my God, let mercy sing a melody over me. God, right here, all I bring is all of me. Your kindness is what pulls me up. Your love is all that draws me in.

Chorus...

Bridge...’Cause You are and You were and You will be forever the Lover I need to save me! ‘Cause You fashioned the earth, and You hold it together, God. So hold me now.

Repeat Chorus, then...I will lift my eyes, lift my eyes to You. God, my God, I cry out. Your beloved needs You now.

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### --INVOCATION

### --CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

## --STATEMENT OF WHAT WE BELIEVE

### “*This I Believe (The Creed)*”

Verse 1... Our Father everlasting, the all creating One, God almighty. Through Your Holy Spirit, conceiving Christ the Son, Jesus our Savior.

Chorus... I believe in God our Father, I believe in Christ the Son.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Our God is three in One. I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again. For I believe in the name of Jesus.

Verse 2... Our Judge and our Defender, suffered and crucified, forgiveness is in You. Descended into darkness, You rose in glorious life, forever seated high. Chorus...

Chorus 2... I believe in life eternal, I believe in the virgin birth. I believe in the saints' communion and in Your holy church. I believe in the resurrection, when Jesus comes again. For I believe in the name of Jesus. For I believe in the name of Jesus.

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## --FIRST LESSON *Genesis 12:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>Now 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>And 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 him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

## --SECOND LESSON *Romans 4:1-8, 13-17*

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather 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 counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

<sup>13</sup>The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come 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 there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <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.

## --GOSPEL LESSON *John 3:1-17*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

(continued...)

<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>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And 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>[Jesus said:] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

## --CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (Nancy Simonson)

### --OFFERING / MESSAGE SONG

(Please bring your Offerings forward during the song.)

#### “Ancient Words”

Verse 1... Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world, they resound with God’s own heart. O, let the ancient words impart. Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope. In this world where’er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

Chorus... Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you; We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words impart.

Verse 2... Holy words of our faith handed down to this age, came to us through sacrifice. O, heed the faithful words of Christ. Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world, they resound with God’s own heart. O, let the ancient words impart;

Sing Chorus twice, then... We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words impart.

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## --MESSAGE OF THE DAY

written by LCMS pastor Rev. James Batchelor

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Read by James Boldt