



St. Luke's Lutheran Church



4801 Anderson Ave
Manhattan, KS 66503
785-539-2604
www.stlukesmanhattan.org

Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

Sunday, March 1, 2026 – 11:00 AM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
William Prann, Director of Christian Education
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
(Series A)**

WELCOME

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, office@stlukesmanhattan.org, or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

AS WE GATHER

On this Second Sunday in Lent, we join Abraham on the road of faith—a road marked not by human achievement but by God’s gracious promise. The Lord called Abraham from his homeland with nothing but His Word to stand on, and Abraham believed the God “who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.” In today’s Epistle, Paul reminds us that Abraham’s righteousness came not through works but through faith, as God Himself *counted* him righteous. So it is for us. In Christ—the promised Offspring—God credits righteousness to sinners and refuses to count our sins against us. As Jesus teaches Nicodemus, this new life is not our doing but a birth “from above,” worked by the Spirit through water and the Word. As we gather, we lift our eyes to the Lord, our help and our hope, trusting that His promises are sure, His mercy is certain, and His grace is the only foundation on which we stand.

IMAGE ON THE COVER

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. 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.” *Genesis 12:1–2*

PRELUDE

(Please use this time to prayerfully prepare your hearts to enter into the presence of Jesus.)

✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

WELCOME

PRESERVICE SONG – “I Will Call Upon the Lord”

- 1, 3, 5 I will call upon the Lord
Who is worthy to be praised
So shall I be saved from my enemies
I will call upon the Lord
- 2, 4, 6 The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock
And may the God of my salvation be exalted
The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock
And may the God of my salvation be exalted
(CCLI #288089)

Stand

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P The Lord called Abraham and counted him righteous through faith.

C **Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

P God does not count our sins against us but covers them with His mercy.

C **Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven.**

P The promise rests on grace and is guaranteed to all who share the faith of Abraham.

C **For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.**

P The God who gives life to the dead calls us to trust His unfailing Word.

C **We lift our eyes to the Lord, our hope and our salvation.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Abraham believed the Lord, and it was counted to him as righteousness. Yet we confess that our hearts often trust in our own works, our own strength, and our own worthiness. Let us come before the God who justifies the ungodly, seeking His mercy.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Almighty God,

C we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have relied on our own efforts, trusted our own righteousness, and doubted Your gracious promises. We have not walked by faith but by sight. For the sake of Jesus Christ, the promised Offspring, forgive us, renew us, and count us righteous by Your grace alone. Amen.

P “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” In love for the world, the Father gave His only-begotten Son, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. In Christ, our sins are not counted against us, and His righteousness is counted as ours. Thanks be to God.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P Lord, have mercy on us.

C Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious God, You counted Abraham righteous not by works but through faith in Your unfailing promise. Grant that we, who are heirs with him through Christ, may trust not in our own striving but in Your mercy that justifies the ungodly. Strengthen us to rest in the righteousness You freely credit to us for Jesus' sake, that we may walk in hope before You all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both
the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

OPENING SONG – “Same Power”

- 1 I can see waters raging at my feet
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me
I can hear the sound of nations rising up
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

- 2 I can walk down this dark and painful road
I can face every fear of the unknown
I can hear all God's children singing out
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

- 3, 5 The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
8 The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us, lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks
The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us, lives in us
He lives in us, lives in us

4 We have hope that His promises are true
In His strength there is nothing we can't do
Yes, we know there are greater things in store
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

6, 7 Greater is He that is living in me
He's conquered our enemy
No power of darkness
No weapon prevails
We stand here in victory

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-9

(God's call to Abraham and His promise that Abraham would become the father of a great nation.)

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And 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. ³I 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."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And 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, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then 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. ⁸From 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. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

L O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
C the founder and perfecter of our faith

L who for the joy that was set before Him
endured the cross, despising the shame,
C and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

(Abraham and his heirs are declared righteous by grace through faith.)

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." . . .

¹³For 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.

¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That 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, ¹⁷as 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE

John 3:16

- P** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
C that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

(Except a man be born anew, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.)

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This 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." ³Jesus answered him, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* ⁴Nicodemus 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?" ⁵Jesus answered, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'* ⁸*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."*

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, *"Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, 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. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."*

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

LAMB'S MESSAGE

SERMON

VOTUM

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERING

There are several ways to give.

1. Please **send** your offerings to
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
4801 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
2. **Electronic Funds Transfer**
Sign up through the church office.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” This is perhaps the most well-known and beloved verse in the New Testament, for good reason. This simple Gospel message is the foundation for our whole life, including our new life in Christ. This new life is characterized by thankfulness and devotion to our Father who has provided for us so lavishly in Christ.

OFFERTORY – “To Know You More” Philippians 3:10

- 1 To know You in all of Your glory, to love You with all that I am
With all of my heart, Lord, this is my prayer: to know You more
- 2 To know You in all of Your power, to trust You with all that I am
With all of my heart, Lord, this is my prayer: to know You more
- 3 To know You in all of Your mercy, to serve You with all that I am
With all of my heart, Lord, this is my prayer: to know You more
- 4 To know You in all of Your splendor, to praise You with all that I am
With all of my heart, Lord, this is my prayer: to know You more
- 5 To know You more

(Joe Horness ©1996, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music and Ever Devoted Music, admin, by Maranatha!
Music CCLI #288089)

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Gracious Father, You called Abraham by Your Word and counted him righteous through faith alone. Grant that Your Church may rest in Your promises, trusting not in works but in Christ, the promised Offspring, who fulfills all righteousness for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of new birth, You sent Your Son to bring life from above and to make us Your children through water and the Spirit. Strengthen all who are baptized, that we may daily die to sin and rise to newness of life, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of the Church, sustain pastors, teachers, missionaries, and all who proclaim Your Word. Give them patience and courage to teach the faith, to comfort the troubled, and to call all people to trust in the righteousness You freely credit to sinners through Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Faithful God, You made Abraham the father of many nations. Bless all parents, especially fathers, that they may hand down the Gospel with joy, lead their households in prayer, and model a life of trust in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Lord, You watch over our going out and our coming in. Bless our President; our Governor; our Mayor and City Council; our School Board; and all who serve in public office. Grant them wisdom, integrity, and a desire for justice, that we may live in peace and use our freedom to serve our neighbor. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of compassion, You give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Look with mercy on the sick, the sorrowing, the lonely, and the afflicted, especially [*names may be spoken*]. Lift them from their distress, sustain them in their trials, and according to Your gracious will, grant them healing and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Father, as Nicodemus was led by the Word of Christ to the cross, so lead us to receive with faith the body and blood of our Savior. Through this Holy Communion, strengthen our trust in the forgiveness He won and renew us in the life that comes from above. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of promise, You guaranteed Your covenant by raising Jesus from the dead. Make us bold witnesses of His grace, that all nations may hear the Gospel and be gathered into the family of Abraham through faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

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 unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

and the power and the glory

forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

LAMB OF GOD SONG

DISTRIBUTION

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. They then distribute the body and blood of Christ to those in the pews who are unable to come forward, and then finally to those who come forward.

Distribution and dismissal will be done by half tables.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

- 1 How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

- 2 Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

3 I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

4, 5 Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

“Come as You Are” John 7:37

1, 2 Come as you are, come and drink from the living water
That flowed from His hands, flowed from His side
Come as you are, come and bathe in the healing water
Cleansing from sin, releasing new life
Draw near to Him and He’ll draw near to you
He’s been waiting for you to call on His name
So come, come as you are

3, 4 Draw near to Him and He’ll draw near to you
He’s been waiting for you to call on His name
So come, come as you are

(Brent Helming ©1996, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

Stand

CONCLUDING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Gracious Father, we give You thanks that in this Holy Supper You have fed us with the body and blood of Your Son, the promised Offspring through whom You bless all nations. As You once counted Abraham righteous through faith, so strengthen us by this Sacrament to trust ever more firmly in Christ, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Born from above by water and the Spirit, and renewed now by this foretaste of the feast to come, send us out in Your peace. Lift our eyes to You, our help and our salvation, and keep us steadfast in Your grace until the day when all who share the faith of Abraham are gathered into Your eternal kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

GREET ONE ANOTHER

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “The Lord be with you,” “Peace be with you,” or “The peace of the Lord be with you”.

CLOSING SONG – “The Battle Belongs to the Lord” | Samuel 17:47

- 1 In heavenly armor we'll enter the land
 The battle belongs to the Lord
 No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand
 The battle belongs to the Lord
- 2, 4, 6 We sing glory, honor, power, and strength to the Lord
7, 8 We sing glory, honor, power, and strength to the Lord
- 3 When the power of darkness comes in like a flood
 The battle belongs to the Lord
 He's raised up a standard, the power of His blood
 The battle belongs to the Lord
- 5 When your enemy presses in hard do not fear
 The battle belongs to the Lord
 Take courage, my friend, your redemption is near
 The battle belongs to the Lord
 (Jamie Owens-Collins ©1984 Fairhill Music CCLI #288089)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2026 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Holy Baptism from Lutheran Service Book

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

