

**A Service of Morning Prayer
Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026**



Nicodemus Visiting Jesus, by Henry Ossawa Tanner 1899

**The Son of man must be lifted up, that whoever believes
in him may have eternal life. John 3:14–15**

CP 11 Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blest be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch for David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.

2 With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.

3 My child, as prophet of the Lord
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,

To you all hearts are open,

All desires known,

And from you no secrets are hidden.

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

That we may perfectly love you,

And worthily magnify your holy name;

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 121*Refrain: Let your loving-kindness be upon us, O Lord.*

121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?
 121:2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
 121:3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
 121:4 He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
 121:5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
 121:6 The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.
 121:7 The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
 121:8 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and
 forevermore.

A Reading from Genesis 12:1-4a

12:1 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.
 12:2 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.
 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
 12:4a So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 529 God, My Hope On You is Founded

1 God, my hope on you is founded,
 you my faith and trust renew;
 through all change and chance you guide me,
 only good and only true.
 God unknown, you alone
 call my heart to be your own.

4 God's great goodness lasts forever,
 deepest wisdom, passing thought;
 splendour, light, and life attending,
 beauty springing out of naught.
 Evermore from God's store
 newborn worlds rise and adore.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
 sword and crown, betray our trust;
 though with care and toil we build them,
 tower and temple fall to dust.
 but your power, hour by hour
 is my temple and my tower.

5 Still from earth to God eternal
 sacrifice of praise be done,
 high above all praises praising
 for the gift of Christ the Son.
 Christ, you call one and all;
 those who follow shall not fall.

3 Daily does the almighty Giver
 bounteous gifts on us bestow;
 God's desire for us delights us
 pleasure leads us where we go.
 Here at hand, love takes stand,,
 joy awaits God's sure command.

A Reading from Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

4:1 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

4:3 For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

4:4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.

4:5 But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

4:13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

4:14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

4:15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

4:16 For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us,

4:17 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 524 O Christ, the Great Foundation

1 O Christ the great foundation
on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation
in every age and land:
pour out your Holy Spirit
to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken
as long as worlds endure.

3 Where tyrants' hold is tightened,
where strong devour the weak,
where innocents are frightened
and righteous fear to speak,
there let your church awaking
attack the powers of sin
and, all their ramparts breaking,
with you the victory win.

2 Baptized in one confession,
one church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression,
the sign of second birth:
one holy people gather
in love beyond our own
by grace we were invited,
by grace we make you known.

4 This is the moment glorious when he,
who once was dead,
Shall lead his church victorious,
their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation
his heavenly kingdom brings:
The final consummation,
the glory of all things.

he Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:1-17

3:1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

3:2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person."

3:3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

3:4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

3:5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

3:6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

3:7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'

3:8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

3:9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

3:10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

3:11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.

3:12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

3:17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 6460237 God With Us

1 Oh You've come to bring peace to be
Love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life to be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel God with us

Chorus

***Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us***

2 Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear
shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us

Bridge

You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory (Lord)
(REPEAT)

Ending

Oh God with us
You are God with us

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven.
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living 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.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

Holy God, as we continue our Lenten journey make us mindful of our potential for good and for growth, as we strive for perfection in your sight despite our human failing and imperfections. We bring our petitions to you saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for your church:

- for the Church of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai
- for the Diocese of Montreal: The Rt. Rev. Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu, Bishop.
- St. Margaret, Edmonton: Aaron Parsall-Myler, Rector; Susan Ormsbee, Honorary Assistant; Janette Chambers, Office Administrator.
- Buyé Hospital Chaplaincy: Daniel Bizimana, Chaplain.
- The people and community of the Paul First Nation.
- for our own parish of St. Peter's. We pray for our Rector Rev. Arthur, our Deacons Rev Alison and Rev Sandra, our musician Nadine, our lay readers Emily and Jorges, our Wardens, our Vestry, our intercessors, readers and all who work behind the scenes to make St Peter's such a welcoming place for worship and fellowship. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Creator God, we pray for all in authority that they may not be tempted to abuse or misuse their power. Help and guide them to show wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace and so bring peace and prosperity to every corner of the world. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our Prayer

Father God, we pray for our relationships with family, friends and neighbours and we particularly pray that we never lead them into any kind of temptation. Help them to see us as a new creation, still the person that God created, but now also as an active part of God's earthly family. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our Prayer

Loving God, our hearts ache when we hear about the pain and suffering that some of our loved ones have to endure. Come close and bring comfort and healing to all those who we now name before you.

Sandra..... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Tony and Mary Jean..... Florence..... Lisa and Joe..... Marijke..... Diane..... Janelle..... Sandy..... Evelyn..... Sarah..... Terry..... Ken..... Monica..... Julie..... Lucas..... Helen..... Cody..... Judy..... Ruth..... Jody and Michael..... David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Melody and her family..... Pauline.....Jorges and Janine..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... Irvin and Margaret..... Ashley..... Emily..... Zaldy..... those we hold close in our hearts and those known to you alone. We pray for all those in any need or trouble. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you know when our hearts are broken by bereavement. You know the pain of loss because you suffered through the death of your only son. In the midst of ongoing sorrow, help us to rejoice in the comfort of the hope, encouragement, and comfort that your promise of eternal life brings to all who believe in Jesus. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our Prayer

Everlasting God, may we show and share our love and trust for you wholeheartedly, today, as we go back out into the world and through every day of our Lenten journey.

Merciful father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Collect

Almighty God,
 whose Son was revealed in majesty
 before he suffered death upon the cross,
 give us faith to perceive his glory,
 that being strengthened by his grace
 we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

**And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 565 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
 I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand,
 Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
 feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow;
 Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
 Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
 be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
 Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
 Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee,
 I will ever give to thee.

The Dismissal

The Son of man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 3:14–15

Let us bless Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness
 working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for
 ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and go in peace to love
 and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**