



**Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026
9:00 am**

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
San Mateo, CA
www.standrews.org (650) 345-1625

"We welcome all people as children of God and invite them to participate fully in the life and ministry at St. Andrew's regardless of age, race, gender, education, ethnic origin, marital or family status, cultural heritage, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic reality or diversity of ability. We resolve to be a church with open hearts, open minds, open doors and seeking to be reconciled to God and one another." St. Andrew's has a statement of welcome for the LGBTQ+ community.

St. Andrew's sits on the traditional land of the Ohlone, Ramaytush and Muwekma tribes.

Prelude

Welcome

Pastor John Kuehner

Call to Worship

Unity Choir and/or Mission Bells

Gathering Hymn – Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW 335

Confession and Forgiveness

Where have we struggled? Where have we been less than perfect?

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Pause for reflection and thought.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community,
but we often defer to our own interests at the expense of others. We
sometimes bend truth where honesty is needed. We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.**

Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen

P: The former things have passed away, and God now declares a newness. Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the love and acceptance found with Christ, and forgives our shortfalls in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. .

Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live abundantly. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹ 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. 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. 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.” ^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Call and Response Reading: Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
² **My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**
³ The Lord will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

- ⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the Lord watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
- ⁷ The Lord will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
- ⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

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. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

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, 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.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Lenten Acclamation

ELW Setting 4

The Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Judeans. 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 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 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?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 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.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

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. 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? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Humanity. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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.

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 the Lord.

Praise to you. O Christ

Sermon

You may be seated

Hymn of the Day

God Loved the World

ELW 323

Apostle's 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 into hell. 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 Intercession

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss especially those we now name aloud or in the peace of our hearts.

Pause . . .

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: May the Peace of the God be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share that peace with one another.

Please stand as you are able

Offering Song Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God

Offering Prayer

Let us pray . . .

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

From earliest days, you turned toward your creation, bringing light from dimness,
firm ground from the deep, life from the dust.

Adam and Eve turned from the garden to toil and struggle. Abraham and Sarah turned from a life of wandering to the land that you showed them. And in the wilderness Jesus turned away from the tempter and toward his proclamation of the heavenly kingdom.

You ordained for everything a season, a time to break down, and a time to build up, a time to keep, and a time to put aside. Let this now be a time of healing, a time of justice, a time of reconciliation and peace.

And so for this, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join this unending hymn:

Holy, Holy

Words of Institution

Communion Dialogue

Remembering, therefore, Christ's turn toward the world, his journey to the cross, and his resurrection from the dead, we turn toward you in the gifts of bread and wine, signs of your mercy and balm for our souls.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may be healing and redemption for us and for your world, the turning toward a new day of righteousness.

That all creation turn toward you, seeking your mercy and trusting in your word, that we may share in your glory with all the saints in light. **Amen**

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.**

All are welcomed to come forward for communion as directed by the usher.

May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. . .

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of Christ,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus, our Savior. **Amen**

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**