

Church of the Divine Love

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 1, 2026 10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Alleluias are omitted during Lent

A Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father, Thank You For allowing us to see a brand -new day. For this, we give You Praise! Lord, we lift up our concerns, worries, and burdens before You, knowing that You are with us in every step of the way. Fill us with Your peace that surpasses all understanding, calming our hearts and reassuring us of Your unfailing presence. Deliver us from the evil one and keep us safe from all harm, known and unknown. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation For Lent page 361

The Decalogue page 350

The Confession page 353

THE WORD OF GOD

_ Kyrie page 356

Collect for 2 Lent page 218

First Lesson: **Genesis 12:1-4a** (*pages 9 in the Bible*)

Psalm 121 page 779

Second Lesson: **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17** (*page 979*)

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **John 3:1-17** (*page 924*)

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)

Hymn during Consecration (on facing page)

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

Communion Hymn #

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace page 815

Prayer for the Parish page 817

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn #

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday March 1st, 2026

Genesis 12: 1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Nicodemus has stepped into the nighttime of his life. He wants to know, “How can these things be?” In the darkness nothing makes sense and he’s looking for answers and understanding. He’s not, however, the first or the only one to step into the darkness. Thomas asks a similar question on the night of the last supper. “How can we know the way” (**John 14:5**)? Before Thomas it was Mary’s question to Gabriel announcing that she would give birth to the Son of God. “How can this be, since I am a virgin” (**Luke 1:34**)? And before Mary it was Zechariah wanting assurance from Gabriel about the son he and Elizabeth would have. “How will I know that this is so” (**Luke 1:18**)? And I am sure Abram must have wondered, “How can I leave my country, my kindred, and my father’s house” (**Genesis 12:1**)?

These are more than just biblical stories about other people in a different place and time. They are also our stories. There comes a time in each of our lives when understanding and knowing give way to the darkness of not knowing and not understanding. The journey of faith, it seems, is a journey through the darkness. Maybe we all come “to Jesus by night. “Whether it’s through a call from God, a crisis of faith, or the circumstances of our lives, at some point we all step into the nighttime of our lives. They are those times and places in our lives when we feel isolated and alone, when the stability and predictability of life are disrupted, when our confidence shrivels and we have more questions than answers. They are the times when we are afraid, when we are powerless, or when we feel unprepared for and overwhelmed by what lies ahead. They are the times we feel untethered, and there is no stability, no anchor, and nothing to hold on to. They are the times when we try to figure it all out but nothing makes sense, and we just don’t know what to do. They are the times when we feel like strangers in a foreign land. They are the times when we face the unknown. They are the times when we don’t know and can’t see the way forward. I’ve been there. I know what that’s like and I’ll bet you do too. I’ll bet each of you could tell a story about the nighttime of your life. I know some of you are in the nighttime of life today. What is your nighttime of life story? When have you stepped out into the darkness? What did that feel like? The nighttime of life is a difficult place for most of us. Sometimes we might experience it as an absence, an ending, or some kind of loss or death. Others times we might experience it as an overwhelming presence of confusion, not knowing, a sense of being lost, a vertigo that disorients. It’s a place of struggle and discomfort. We want answers instead of questions, certainty instead of ambiguity, and light instead of shadows. We want understanding and explanations. We want to see the way forward. We want to know where we are going, what will happen, and what lies ahead.

In the nighttime of life there are, however, no answers. There are only the promises of God. Do you remember God’s promises to Abram? “I will,” God says. God acts in the darkness of our lives. If Abram will step into the mystery of the unknown, the nighttime of his life, God will do the rest. “I will show you,” “I will make of you,” “I will bless you,” God tells Abram (**Genesis 12:1-2**). The nighttime of life is not a time for us to gather more data, try harder, do more, or make sense of what is happening. It is a time of surrendering to God and opening ourselves to God’s dreaming for our lives. It is a time of trusting that there is more hidden in the darkness than we can see. It is a time of letting the wind of God blow where

it will and change our lives. It's a time for letting ourselves be born anew. In the nighttime of life, the problem is not the darkness but our fear and confusion about what the darkness means. What if new life and light lie on the other side of the darkness? What if the darkness is the border between us and a fuller life? What if the darkness is the means by which God transforms our lives and calls us into our truer and more authentic selves? What if we experienced the darkness as an invitation into God rather than something to be feared? What if we understood and trusted that new life and light are born of the darkness? That's what it was for Nicodemus, Thomas, Mary, Zechariah, Abram and Sarai.

A seed planted in the darkness of the earth sprouts, rises, and reaches for the sun's light. A child in the darkness of his or her mother's womb is born into the light of day. Christ burst forth from the darkness of the tomb giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. And let's not forget that God's "Let there be light" was spoken in the darkness, and continues to be spoken in the darkness of every time, place, and life. In the nighttime of life, we must give our eyes time to adjust to the darkness. It's not so much looking for light around us as it is discovering the light within us, the light of Christ. There is a light in us that only the darkness can illuminate. The luminous darkness shines in the nighttime of life. It did for Nicodemus, Thomas, Mary, Zechariah, Abram and Sarai. And it does for us as well. In the nighttime of life, the luminous darkness says we are not alone even when we don't see another soul around. It shows the way forward when it's so dark we can't see our own hands. It holds the dawn of a new day after a long night. The luminous darkness is God's "I will" for you and me.

Most of us do whatever we can to avoid or get out of the darkness. Nighttime living isn't much fun. It's difficult, uncomfortable, even painful. It's not our first choice. It is, however, necessary. That's why we are marked with ashes and reminded of our mortality. We must remember that what is born of the flesh is flesh and that there is more to us and our lives than what we can create for ourselves. It's why this season of Lent focuses on the very opposite of daytime living: letting go instead of possessing, hunger instead of fullness, self-denial instead of self-satisfaction, change instead of status quo, self-examination instead of blissful ignorance, and darkness rather than light. The nighttime of life is not a situation to be resolved, a problem to be figured out, or a question to be answered. As difficult and painful as it may be the nighttime of life is the womb by which we are born from above. The discomforts of the darkness are the contractions by which we are pushed into new life and born again. This nighttime birth changes everything about our daytime life. This second birth gives meaning to, completes, and fulfills our first birth. This, however, is the Spirit's work not ours. We cannot birth ourselves. Let yourself be born. The contractions of the darkness are God reshaping, forming, and molding you in the likeness of Christ. Isn't that what we really want? Isn't that why we've shown up here today? Isn't that what this holy season of Lent is about?

Lent is our reminder that the nighttime of life, no matter how dark, is always filled with the promise of new life, full life, abundant life, God's own life – what Jesus calls eternal life. Why settle for re-creating ourselves one more time when Christ is dying to give us a life, we could never create for ourselves?

Amen!

2 LENT`	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP

SET CLOCKS AHEAD

3 Lent	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
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	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Anthony Giordano
Coffee Hour	Janet Croft	Judy Golden

SUPPORT THE FOOD BANK, DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father, I adore you, Lay my life before you, How I love you.

(repeat twice with 2nd verse starting with Jesus, and 3rd verse starting with Spirit)

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Martin
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Warren
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby
Scottie Credendino	Michael	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Jill
Anthony Paribello	Jonathan	Aika
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Jan
Timothy Treasure	Vincent & Barbara	Sandy
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jay
Gladys Hadija	Sophia	Aidan
Michael & Family	Donna A	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	Cary
Samantha		

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disasters.

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us, with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to the prayer list during the week,

email Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

