

Nicodemus came
to
Jesus
BY NIGHT
JOHN 3:2



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Hope in Hard Times
The Power of Small Steps

March 1, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

To reflect God's love through caring service to our church, the community, and the world.

WELCOME STATEMENT

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God's children, and all are welcome here.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

-Galatians 3:28

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Presiding Minister—Pastor Anne Andert
Organist/Choir Director—Cheryl Licary
AV Assistant—Grant Dusso

9:30 am service

Acolyte—TBD

Assisting Minister—Lynette Rust

Communion Assistants—Betty Johnston and Wanda Faust

Communion Prep—Lynette Rust

Lector—Wanda Faust

Greeters—Richard and Mary Lou Lokken

Ushers—Terry Amundson, Steve Christensen,
Rich Olmstead, and Darryl Schutte

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FOREGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
 Through faith, the free gift of God,
 you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
 In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
 dwells in you,
 pours God's love into your hearts,
 and gives you life and peace.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me—ELW 325



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Public domain

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
 communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE (Sung first by choir, then congregation)
For the Troubles and the Sufferings—ACS 1051

For the trou - bles and the suf - f'ring's of the world,
God, we call up - on your mer - cy: the
whole cre - a - tion's la - bor - ing in pain! Lend an
ear . . . to the ris - ing cry for help from op -
pressed and hope - less peo - ple: Come! Has - ten your sal -
va - tion, heal - ing love! We pray for peace,
the bless - ed peace that comes from mak - ing
jus - tice, to cov - er and em - brace us.
Have mer - cy, Lord! We pray for pow'r,
the pow'r that will sus - tain your peo - ple's wit - ness:
un - til your king - dom comes. Ky - ri - e - e - le - i - son!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

L: A reading from Genesis.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 121

We read Psalm 121 responsively:

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

The LORD will not let your foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

Behold, the keeper of Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep;

the LORD watches over you;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

the sun will not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

The LORD will preserve you from all evil

and will keep your life.

**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

L: A reading from Romans.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

P: The gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

C: **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 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 Man. 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Power of Small Steps

Pastor Anne Andert

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Baptized and Set Free—ELW 453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

Hear Our Prayer—Sung after each petition, as indicated.

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

A: Filled with God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, we pray for ourselves, our community, the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

C: Sing, Hear Our Prayer

A: Faithful God, you renew us by grace. You have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages. Grant your church the means to praise you even as the sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect all who labor to protect your creation. O Lord, You bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person. Bless and multiply the efforts of all who work for justice, mercy, and peace.

C: Sing, Hear Our Prayer

A: Compassionate and healing God, 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. We name loved ones before you now aloud or in the silence of our hearts, and give thanks that you know the fullness of each story. (pause for silent prayer)

P: Eternal God, 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. Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Sing, Hear Our Prayer

MEAL

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **and also with you.**

*Please greet one another, as you feel comfortable, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.** After the sharing of the peace, you may be seated.*

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Offering is received as ushers pass the plate down each row. As we sing the Offertory, ushers bring offering forward.

ANTHEM

God Loved Us So Much

-Schram

Please rise.

OFFERTORY

This Is Christ's Body—ACS 967

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with
mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,
bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

Text and music: Anne Krentz Organ
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OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKGIVING

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 to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table.

C: Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion. The bread is given first, then select either a small cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask the server. Empty cups are placed in the basket. Children may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text and music: Twila Paris
©1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music
CCLI Song #16787 CCLI License #2679134

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: 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 your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SENDING

Please stand as you are able.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow—ELW 327:1,2



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944
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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace.

C: To reflect God's love through caring service to our church, the community, and the world.

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour is more than refreshments — it's where we connect, welcome newcomers, and build community. You can host on your own or with a friend or group. Please consider hosting one of our upcoming Sundays – sign-up sheets can be found on the counter in the Commons.

FAMILY FUN @ CORAL COVE

Join us for a fun afternoon at Coral Cove **TODAY!** Doors to Coral Cove opens at noon and we will be there from 12-2 pm. Each child/youth will receive some tokens to start, please come join us!

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP

Join us each Wednesday for Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm, in the Commons. Sign-up sheets are on the counter in the Commons, please consider signing up to provide soup and/or bread.

YOUNG @ HEART

Come out for fellowship, surprise activities, and a delicious lunch of Corned Beef & Cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and pudding on **Thursday, March 12 from 12-2 pm**. To help us prepare, please sign-up on the sheet located on the counter in the Commons by Sunday, March 8.

ORDER EASTER LILIES

Would you like to sponsor Easter Lilies to beautify our altar on Easter Sunday? Plants are \$10 for a single and \$20 for double and they can be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. Order forms can be found on the table outside the sanctuary by the elevator or call the church office. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 15.

TACOS & TRIVIA | SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Think you've got what it takes to win? Join us at 11:30 am for a lively game of trivia. Form a team of up to 6 players (all ages welcome) and sign up in the Commons. \$10 per person. Tacos and snacks included.

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED

Catch Sunday services (9:30 am) on YouTube.

Links and bulletins: oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/worship.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	March 1	9:30am 9:30am 10:30am 10:30am 12:00pm 1:00pm	Worship with Holy Communion Kids Connect Coffee Hour Youth Connect Family Fun @ Coral Cove Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Monday	March 2	4:00pm	Boy Scout's Pancake Supper
Tuesday	March 3	9:00am 11:00am 5:30pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	Staff Meeting Text Study Education (Online) Boy Scouts Anna Circle Dartball
Wednesday	March 4	9:00am 12:30pm 5:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	Men's Group (Riverside Terrace) P.E.O. Meeting Televised Worship (Ch. 992) Lent Soup Supper (Commons) Midweek Worship (Commons) Choir
Thursday	March 5	6:00pm	OA
Friday	March 6	9:30am	BAREA Board
Sunday	March 8	2:00am 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am 10:30am 1:00pm	<i>Daylight Savings begins</i> Worship with Holy Communion Kids Connect Coffee Hour Youth Connect Televised Worship (Ch. 992)

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church will occasionally take photographs and video of church activities, which may be used online, and in digital and print materials. Additionally, worship services are recorded, livestreamed, and broadcast on a weekly basis. By participating, authorization to publish any such photo or video is granted to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OUR SAVIOR'S

It is a joy to have you join us for worship. Wherever you are from, wherever you are in life or on your faith journey, we are glad you are here. Please fill out a Yellow Slip for attendance and prayer requests.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

We have large print bulletins and hearing enhancers for anyone who may need them, please see an usher for assistance.

STAY CONNECTED

749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511
(608) 362-0716
office@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org
www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

SCRIPTURE

You may want to prepare for Sunday by studying the scriptures.


- Exodus 17:1-7
- Psalm 95
- Romans 5:1-11
- John 4:5-42

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ONLINE GIVING ►



Join us for
LENT SOUP SUPPER
EVERY WEDNESDAY
IN MARCH AT 6:00 PM



HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER
Midweek Lenten Services
Wednesdays in March @ 6:30 PM
Lent 2026 Theme: "Hope in Hard Times"



SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMONS

