

# Second Sunday in Lent

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship

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LENT †

Pray Fast Give



**Atonement Lutheran Church**

**Invite • Prepare • Go into the World**

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618

# GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

*Aus Tiefer Not*

*-F. Zachow*

**WELCOME**

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*\*Please Stand As You Are Able*

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

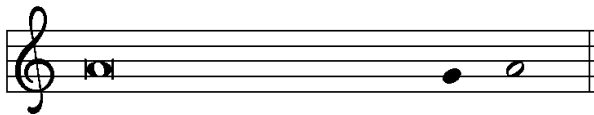
*Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

# 767

**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



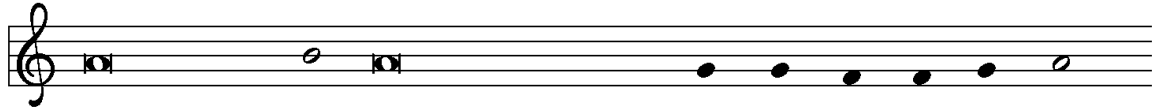
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O 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. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **PSALM 121**

*Read responsively. Congregation reads **bold** type.*

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

- <sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**  
<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;  
<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup> **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*

*A reading from Romans*

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

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> 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, <sup>17</sup> 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.**

**\*LENTEN VERSE**    *We Are Turning, Lord, to Hear You*



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind—



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**\*NARRATIVE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 3:1-17*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup> 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?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup> "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. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “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.

<sup>17</sup> “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**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**      *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*      # 321

### **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the Church, with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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

For the church throughout the world, that all who bear the name of Christ may find true repentance for their sins and walk in the ways of peace;  
Let us pray to the lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

Receive the prayers we offer, O God, in the name of the One who endured the cross, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Out of the Depths*

*-K. Lee Scott*

*Offering gifts are gratefully received  
in the plates located near the sanctuary doors as you exit.*

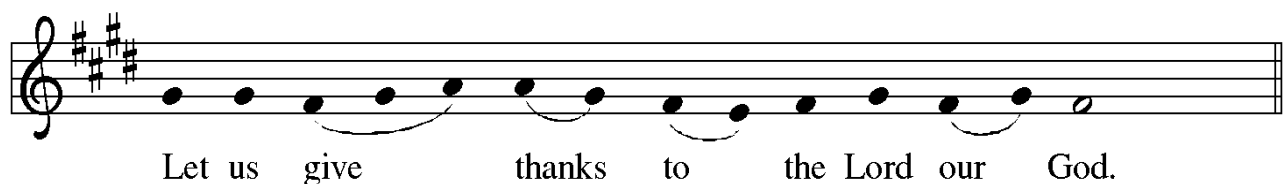
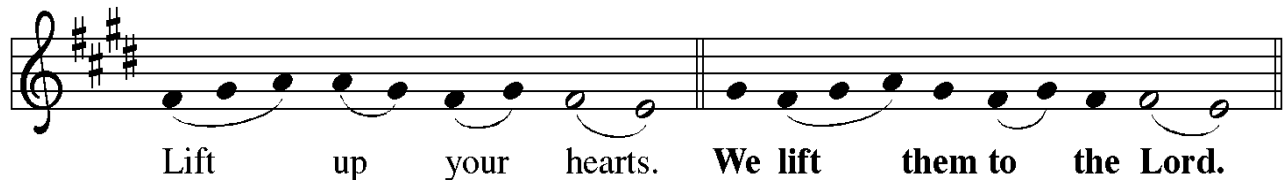
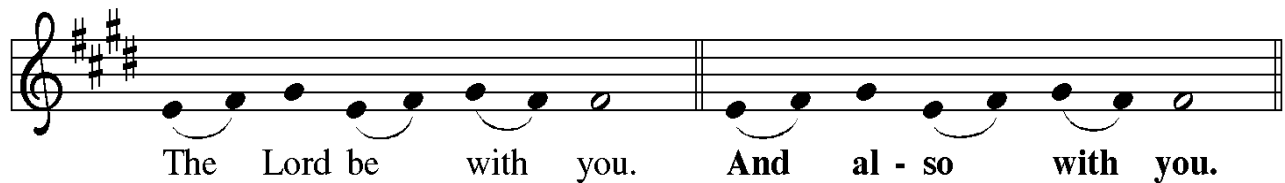
## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we received from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## MEAL

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*PROPER PREFACE

### \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

*All are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.*

*~Come forward by the center aisle.*

*~Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.*

*~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.*

*~Please tell an usher if you need communion elements brought to your pew.*



## **SENDING**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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. **Amen.**

### **\*BLESSING**

May the steadfast love of God the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit surround you  
throughout these forty days, and into everlasting life. **Amen.**

### **\*SENDING HYMN**

*Lift High the Cross*

# 660

### **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace; led by the cross of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Lift High the Cross*

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;  
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister .....	Joanne Scanlon
Usher .....	Bob Heinig
Livestream Recorder .....	Karen Goodyear
Counters .....	Bryan Howe, Adam Darder
Altar Care .....	Judy Lazenby
Fellowship Hosts .....	John & Lin Macholz

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Adult forum & fellowship**

#### ***\*TODAY\* following worship in Reissig Hall***

Join us for some conversation, beverages, and treats. Today we'll be hearing from Pastor John Macholz on the topic *Looking at the Path Ahead: a Pastoral Transition at Atonement*.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **JUST LOVE: LENT 2026**

*God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.*

*-Romans 5:5*

As we journey through this season of Lent to the cross, the tomb, and the empty grave, may God's love pour out into us...and through us... to our neighbors, communities, and all the world.

### **JUST LOVE: NOONTIME WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP**

**Wednesdays from 12:00 – 12:30pm February 25 – March 25**

Join us for scripture readings, reflections, hymns and candle lighting as we pray for the world and the people God loves.

### **LOVE LIKE A DISCIPLE: LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

**Wednesdays at 11:00am February 25 – March 25**

A fresh look at the Sermon on the Mount...and Jesus' invitation to live into God's love in what we do and what we say.

### **LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS**

Help us help others by donating hygiene items for distribution to unhoused members of the Rochester community through Person Centered Housing Options (PCHO). We will be collecting the items listed below through March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Items can be placed on the table in the narthex.

- \* Deodorant (men's and women's)
- \* Toothbrushes (individually wrapped)
- \* Small/sample sized bar soap
- \* Tampons

### **LOVE OUTPOURED: DEVOTIONS FOR LENT 2026**

Journey through this holy season with a copy of this new devotional for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Pick up a copy from the basket on the table in the narthex.

## Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;  
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;  
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,



di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.  
for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.  
I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!



so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.  
for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.  
So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

## Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

# Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## Atonement Lutheran Church

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

*Email: [pastorgails@aol.com](mailto:pastorgails@aol.com)*

*Office: (585) 442-1018*

*Cell : (614) 477-7863*

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry  
Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

*Welcome to worship,*

*and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.  
If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation  
or learning more about our ministries, please speak to our Pastor.*

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:  
**Invite** all people into the presence of the living God,  
**Prepare** for ministry in daily life and  
**Go** into the world as disciples*

Our Church Nursery is available for parents  
to use with their children.

**AN EASY WAY TO GIVE ~ SCAN HERE →**

*Scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera, tap on the link that pops up, and you will be taken directly to Atonement's giving website. If your phone doesn't automatically scan the code, you may need to download a QR code reader app. Many are available for free in the Google Play or Apple App store. Please contact Lindee Krapf if you have any questions.*



Thank you for joining us in worship today!

*"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.*

John 3:16

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Visit our web site at: **[www.atonementrochester.org](http://www.atonementrochester.org)**  
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Contact us via Email: **[office@atonementrochester.org](mailto:office@atonementrochester.org)**  
Call us via phone at: **(585) 442-1018**  
Church Office hours: **Tues~Wed~Thurs 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**