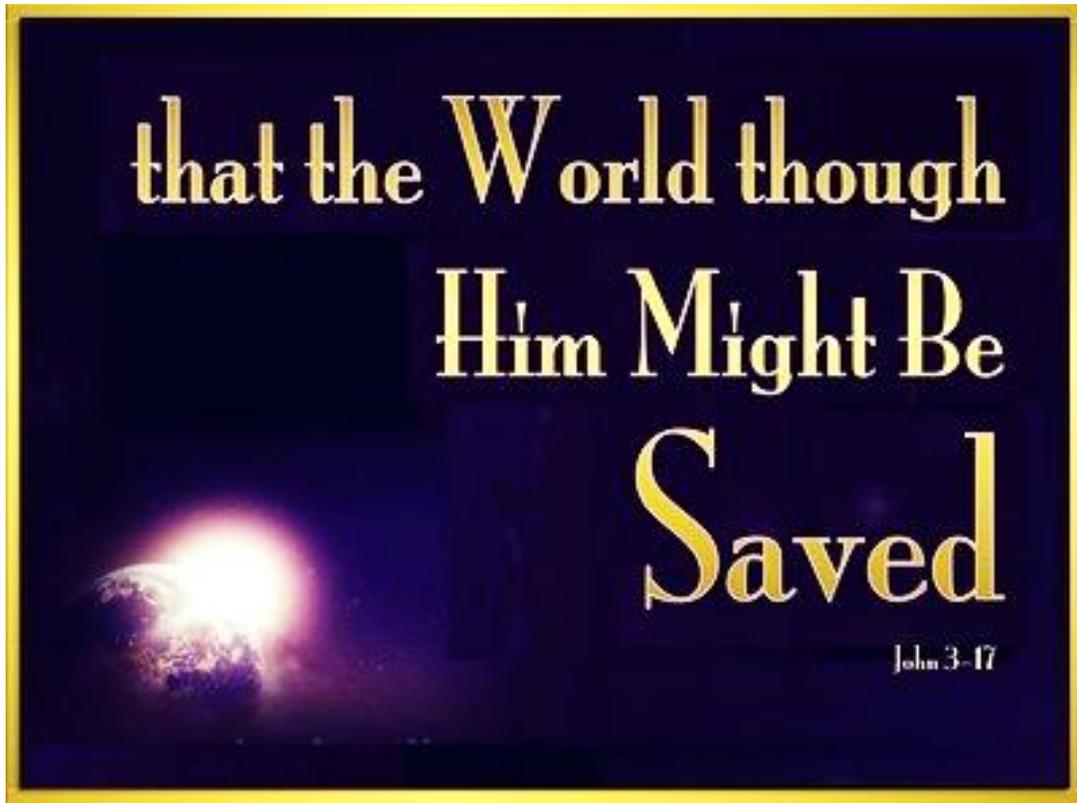


Worship Guide for March 1, 2026

The Second Sunday of Lent



Welcome and Announcements

Let us prepare our hearts for worship.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with mercy and love. **Amen.**

Let us return to the Lord our God and confess our sin.

Silence for reflection.

Merciful God, *we confess that 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. We cling to the things of this world and resist the way of the cross. We turn inward, we hold grudges, we neglect those in need. Create in us clean hearts, O God. Teach us to walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

Hear the good news: God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Through Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are freed to love and serve your neighbor. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Prayer of the Day

Together we pray: *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.*

Reading of the WordFirst Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I 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.**

Psalm: 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

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.***

Children's Message**It's Time to Order Easter Lilies!**

White lilies (\$18) can be ordered for Easter Sunday in honor/memory of loved ones, or just because! Orders are due Monday, March 9, so forms (on the rear table in the fellowship hall) and payment are due by Sunday, March 8. (There will be a separate form/deadline for the red geraniums, as we are still waiting on that pricing.)

Gospel Acclamation**Return to the Lord Your God**

Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

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!



Welcome to New Salem

We are blessed to have you worship with us today!

If you are looking for a church home, please contact Traci Schanke in the church office at 218-586-2262 or via email at newsalem@paulbunyan.net.
If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book outside the church office.

Website: newsalemlutheran.org

YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

Food Shelf Volunteer Dates for March



Monday, March 9: 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 12 – 3:15 p.m.
Friday, March 13 from 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Karin Snortland at 612.940.7312 or via email at ksnortland5@gmail.com.

Worship Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with various Sunday ministries here at New Salem! Ushers, readers/Communion assistants, helpers to set up Communion before the worship service and tidy up afterward, offering counters (we will train you!), and hosts for our coffee fellowship after worship. Sign up as a family or team up with a friend or two! **Signup sheets are available on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. Remember: If no one signs up to host coffee fellowship, THERE IS NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP.**



Rummage and Bake Sale April 18



It's time to start assembling your rummage items - Saturday, April 18, is the **proposed** date for the 2026 Spring Rummage and Bake Sale. Items for the sale can be brought to the church starting Sunday, March 28. Watch the rear table in the fellowship hall for a signup page for sale prep/working at the sale and foam trays/plastic bags for baked goods. The Service Group will meet to finalize arrangements after worship on Sunday, March 15 – all are welcome to attend the meeting and assist with this event!

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 of the People

Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

Sharing the Peace

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Hymn

Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Offering Prayer

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 receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Together we pray: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

Sharing Christ's Meal

Communion Hymn #1**We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus**

1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
 3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
 glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir-it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
 God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;
 as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo-ry now re-sounds a - gain



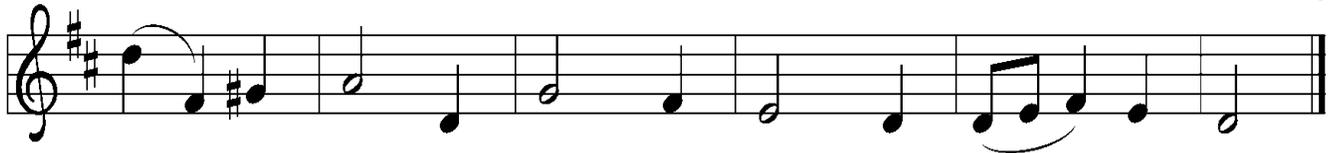
we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
 in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Communion Hymn #2**God Loved the World (continues next page)**

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Compassionate God, *you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be a hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. Amen.*

Benediction

Sending Hymn

Blessed Assurance



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Today's Worship Leaders/Assistants

Presiding Clergy: Pastor Terry R. Hagensen **Social Media Coordinator: Nora Illies**
Ushers: Dar and Mike Moen **Setting the Lord's Table: Sonya & Paul Kraft**
Reader/Communion Assistant: Sonya Kraft **Pianist: Cheryl Durant**
Fellowship Host: **Cantor/AV Services: Traci Schanke**

New Salem Lutheran Church - Terry R. Hagensen, Pastor

7491 Island View Drive NE, Turtle River, MN 56601

Office Tel: 218-586-2262/Office Email (Traci Schanke): newsalem@paulbunyan.net

Website: newsalemlutheran.org/

YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

February Income vs Expenses (PRELIMINARY)

Total General Fund Income for Feb: \$13,013

Total Expenses for Feb: \$15,256

DEFICIT for Feb: (-\$2,243)

2.22 General Fund Offering: \$1,352

Attendance/Social Media Engagement (as of 2.27.26)

Sunday, Feb 22 (in person/online): 50/25

Wednesday, Feb 25 (in person/online): 13/28

YouTube Views: 388

YouTube Subscribers: 140

Facebook reach: 15,501

Upcoming @ New Salem

Wed, 3/4	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
	Midweek Lenten Worship Service	6:30 p.m.
Thurs, 3/5	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Wed, 3/11	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
	Midweek Lenten Worship Service	6:30 p.m.
Thurs, 3/12	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.

Announcements for the Week of March 2, 2026

Today is Noisy Offering! Coins, folding money and checks are cheerfully accepted. All Noisy Offerings collected throughout the year are used by church youth to support programs such as United Way's Backpack Buddies and our recent Cow Project for the Food Shelf.

Lent and Easter at New Salem: Lenten Midweek Services on March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6:30 p.m.
 Holy Week: Palm Sunday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m., Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.
 Good Friday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m., Easter Sunday, April 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 17 is Team/Council Night: Teams meet at 6; Council at 7. All are welcome to join a team and help further the missions and ministries of New Salem. You are also welcome to attend and observe the Council meeting; if you have an item to bring to the Council, please talk to any Council member, Pastor Terry or Traci in the church office and they will see that you are added to the meeting agenda.

Birthday Bag Assembly on Sunday, April 12! It's time again to put together birthday bags for the Food Shelf. We are in need of cake mixes, frostings (full size please) and birthday napkins – these items can be brought to the church before April 12. Our goal is to assemble 150 bags!

Offering Reminder: Please remember to indicate on your check/offering envelope how you wish your gift to be credited. Unmarked offerings/those marked “general” go toward New Salem’s annual operating expenses; gifts marked for other entities are credited as such in your giving record and sent to those organizations. Thank you for supporting the missions and good works of New Salem!

Music Rights/Permissions for March 1

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service and include the printed music in this worship guide has been obtained from *ONE LICENSE*, License #A-726224; credits are as follows:

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross – Text: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)

Music: William H. Doane (1832-1915)

Return to the Lord Your God – Text and music: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship and © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Lift High the Cross – Text: George W. Kitchin (1827-1912); rev. Michael R. Newbolt (1874-1956)

Music: Sydney H. Nicholson (1875-1947)/Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

Come to the Table – Text: Claire Clonigen (b. 1942)/Music: Martin Nystrom (b. 1956)

Text and music © 1991 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus – Text and music: John C. Ylvisaker (b. 1937)

Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

God Loved the World – Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen. 1791; tr. August Crull (1846-1923), alt.

Music: Edward Miller (1731-1807), adapt.

Blessed Assurance – Text: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)

Music: Phoebe P. Knapp (1830-1908)

Join the Choir and Make a Joyful Noise!



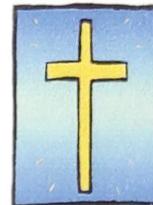
If you like to sing, join the New Salem Choir! We are a fun, friendly, supportive group, and the ability to read music is not necessary! The choir sings for worship on the first and third Sundays of each month, as well as presenting special music at

Christmas/Easter and participating in the summer Bemidji Area Church Musicians recital. Rehearsals are at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays – join us!

March Mission Partner: Peoples Church



*New Salem's
Highlighted Mission Partner
March 2026*



Mission

We strive to provide a sanctuary for prayerful worship within a respectful and welcoming environment and to meet the spiritual needs of our parishioners and community using Christian values while respecting the 'One God with Many Names.' After 25 years of seeing who shows up to worship with us, it is clear we are largely an indigenous church. We celebrate Cross and Feather and are very sensitive to justice issues for Native Peoples.

Peoples Church exists to help serve not only the spiritual needs but basic living needs of many who would go without. Shelter and food—that's where healing begins.

We are a multicultural and indigenous ministry of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). We live out our faith by showing Creator God's love for all people by offering shelter, hot meals, and community.

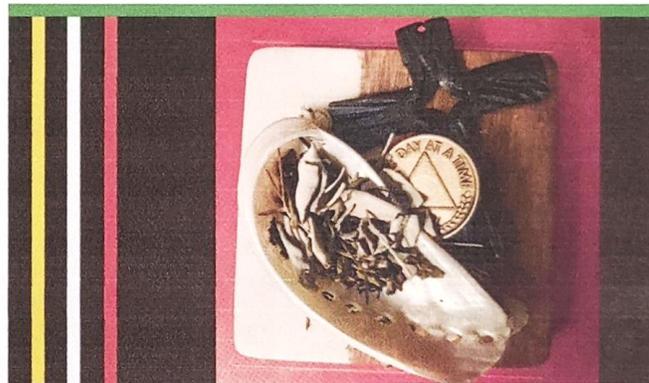
Sunday Feast 12:00pm and Worship 12:30pm

Peoples Church offers overnight shelter year-round. Our hours are 5:00p to 10:00a everyday and open all day on Sundays.

Peoples Church offers overnight shelter year-round. We have a hot evening meal on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays served beginning at 5:00pm and breakfast 7 days a week from 8-10am. Anyone in the community is welcome to share in our meals, you do not have to be a shelter guest to eat with us.

Sundays we have a feast with a hot meal at 3:00 pm 824 America Ave. NW

Food pantry with canned goods is available to everyone during our open hours: 8-10a and 5p-10p every day.



God's Work, Our Treasure—March 2026

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, the **Peoples Church**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable ministry.

You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for the **Peoples Church**

And we will forward your gift to them. peopleschurch-elca.org

Readings for March 1, 2026 – The Second Sunday of Lent

This coming Sunday, we set off along with Abraham, as he journeyed to the Promised Land, and with Nicodemus, when he visited Jesus in the night, for we are heading through Lent to arrive at Easter. Come: join the people of God in prayer and praise, word and meal.

The Readings on This Day

Those who designed the three-year lectionary anticipated that the church of the future will resemble the church of the fourth century, more than that of the nineteenth. In the fourth century, Lent was understood as the time for catechumens to prepare for baptism at Easter, and baptismal preparation included meditation on the Johannine discourses about the meaning of Christ for the baptized community. Thus Lent in Year A revives the pattern of proclaiming the Johannine signs and discourses as a way to interpret baptism and the new life of the resurrection. This Sunday begins with the first of four: Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus.

John 3:1-17: The four Lenten Johannine discourses begin with Jesus' teaching about being born again. Until the nineteenth century, the church understood "being born again" as referring to baptism. In Lent, catechumens are prepared for Easter baptism, and the community, as Martin Luther says, daily crawls back to the font, to be renewed in the promises of this second birth.

Genesis 12:1-4a: As with many of the lectionary's first readings, Genesis 12 is chosen to parallel the gospel reading. Jesus calls on Nicodemus to be born again, and in parallel, we recall the story of the Lord calling Abram to begin a new life in a new land in the sight of God.

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17: As is usual with the second readings for about half of the church year, this second reading is chosen to coordinate with the first reading and the gospel. Romans is seen as particularly appropriate for Lent; thus four of the Lenten epistle readings come from Romans. On this Sunday, Paul's commentary on Abraham presents the Christian interpretation of the call of Abram: God blessed Abraham, not because he obeyed the Jewish law, but because he had faith in the promises of God, the same faith into which Nicodemus and all the baptized are invited.

Images in the Readings

John's language of "being born again" suggests the image of the mother. Historically, the church described itself as this mother and the font as the womb from which birth in God arises. Recently, also God is described as the mother who births a new creation. But birth is not easy, and Lent allows us forty days to re-envision that birth.

Abram's immigration to the land of promise offers the image of the journey. Lent provides forty days for the annual journey back to the mystery of the resurrection and the new life to which we are called.

Paul's language of justification assumes that God is a judge who requires of us a life of righteousness. That justification comes via faith does not eliminate the necessity for such a radical reorientation of the self before God. It is instructive to hold the image of judge next to that of the mother: each image nuances the other.