

Milwaukie Lutheran Church

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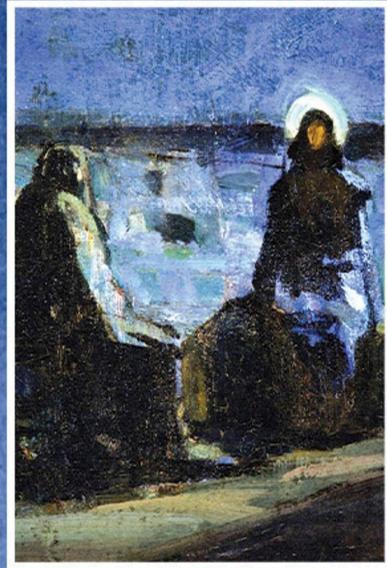
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NICODEMUS came
to
Jesus
BY NIGHT

JOHN 3:2



Announcements: 10:50 AM Worship Starts 11:00 AM

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Milwaukie Lutheran Church

“Nurturing the Personal and Spiritual Growth of Our Community.”

March 1, 2026

Announcements 10:50 AM - Worship 11:00 AM

Second Sunday in Lent

Our order of worship follows this printed bulletin. # signs indicate hymn choices and are printed on the top of each page in the hymnal. Little ones are always welcome at worship. We stand and sit at various places in the service. These symbols are a guide to those times...please know that if at any time it is difficult to stand, you are invited to stay seated.

 = stand as able  = sit

Reader for today - Emma Duncan

Communion Assistants - Sheryl Ann & Rod Waage

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome/Announcements

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

(following the sharing of the peace)

Prelude

 *Confession and Forgiveness*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

L: Gracious God,

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

L: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

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

L: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

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

L: 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.

L: 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.

L: 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.

L: 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.

L: 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.

Opening Song: Gracious God

pg. 15

Call to Worship

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

ELW pg. 156

Canticle of Praise (All glory be to God on high...)

ELW pg. 159

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together...

C: 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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

 *First Reading:*

Genesis 12:1-4a

Second Reading:

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

P/A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise...

ELW pg. 160

 *Holy Gospel*

John 3:1-17

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

 *Sermon*

 *Hymn of the Day: Lead Me, Guide Me*

ELW #768

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:

Celebrate

 *Offering*

Online Giving QR Code



Scan with your smartphone camera

 *Offertory: Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW #885

Offertory Prayer

P: 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

Meal

<i>The Great Thanksgiving:</i>	pg. 161
<i>Eucharistic Preface</i>	
<i>Holy, Holy Holy:</i>	pg. 162

*Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution**Lord's Prayer (Celtic Version):*

Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring
May Love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness

(cont.)

**That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people
This day, tonight, and forever.
Amen.**

 *Holy Communion:*

All who hunger and thirst for Christ's presence are welcome at the Lord's Table. Communion is served on the lower level at the front row of pews. There are both gluten free and non-alcoholic options available. If you are mobility challenged, please let one of our ushers know, and we will bring the meal to you.

 *Lamb of God:*

pg. 164

[Special music by Kit Taylor]

 *Prayer after Communion:*

P: 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.

Sending

Blessing:

P: 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.

C: Amen.

 *Closing Hymn: Lift High the Cross*

ELW #660

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Milwaukie Lutheran Prayers

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, or to submit a personal prayer request, please call the office (and leave a voicemail) or email office@milwaukielutheran.org. If you are submitting a prayer request on behalf of someone else, please make sure you have permission before sharing personal information.

Prayer List

Myra Manley, Margaret Manley, Mark & Dawne Haase, John Wehr, Jerry Prosa, Laura Giese, Grant, Linda Seals, Dominic, Mya O'Camb, Sister Mary Jo, Shane Hoffman, Bob, Jim King, Anthony Alvarez, Stacy, Gary, Dan Liebert, Evelyn Knutson, Rafael & Ruby Hernandez, Eve, Charity Carter, Gracie, Jim Strupp, Holly Manning, Sally Wong, Mark Olson, Jerry Johnson, Patti Effenberger, Linda Millenbach, Pat Korsness

Submitted Prayers

- The families of Glenda Benton and Ralph McKenzie
- Marv Anderson, currently in hospice care

In Memoriam

- Glenda Benton
- Ralph McKenzie

Places of Conflict

- Ukraine and Russia
- Israel, Palestine, Yemen, and Syria
- Sudan
- Venezuela
- Minneapolis, Minn.
- Iran

Places of Disaster

- Flooding and destruction in Madagascar due to Tropical Cyclone Gezani and Tropical Cyclone Fytia

Worship Announcements

- **Be a guest reader for Milwaukie Lutheran Preschool!:** You can meet our MLC preschoolers by volunteering to read to the classes. The preschool teachers will provide a book that is connected to their religious or secular theme of the week. One volunteer reader per week, on Wednesdays at 11:30am. They have two classrooms that will alternate weekly which one has the guest reader. (Note: When readers arrive on Wednesdays, they should go to the Church Office door entrance and ring the doorbell to come in. A preschool staff member will meet them in the preschool stairwell to show them to the room and give them an opportunity to pick a book.) The commitment should be approximately 30 minutes. The following Wednesdays are available: March 18; April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; and May 6, 13, 20, 27. Signup sheets are on the Gathering Area bulletin board. If you have questions, please email Beth Lillie at: <bethlillie@comcast.net>.
- **Emotional Support Chickens:** Feeling overwhelmed by the world at large? Are you looking for a source of comfort during these troubling times? Linda Smith has created some beautiful small emotional support chickens to remind you of God Who Mothers Us. They will be for sale for \$15 during the season of Lent.
How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings - Matthew 23:37
- **Devotionals for Lent:** On Wednesdays, beginning February 25 through April 8, Sheryl Ann will be offering a Lenten devotional time before the soup luncheon. We will meet in the library at 10:30 and go until just before lunch. We will be using Joyce Rupp's book, "Jesus, Guide of My

(Worship Announcements, cont.)

Life". Several books have been ordered and will be available at the Ash Wednesday service. Let Sheryl Ann know if you would like to be part of the group: 503-421-5230 or <rswaage@myctl.net>.

- **Midweek Lent Worship:** On Wednesdays in Lent (2/25 - 3/25) we will have soup lunches at noon, followed by a meditative service at 1pm. Please sign up to bring soup, if you are able. The signup form will be in the gathering area.
- **Sunday School (9:30am - 10:30am):** *The Sacraments:* We are spending the season of Lent talking about the Sacraments: the history of their theology, how they are practiced in our liturgical lives, and how they inform our daily lives.
- **Kids classes:** Join Max and Jamie at 9:30am on Sunday mornings to talk about the Bible story for the day and do some crafts associated with the lesson!
- **Lectionary Study:** A weekly study where we look at the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. We meet at 10:00am every Tuesday at Shirley Meyer's house: 14075 SE Hines Dr., Clackamas, OR 97015.

Community Announcements

- **Rowe MS Pantry Donations:** Rowe Middle School is in great need of sweatpants - any color and sizes for kids from small to extra large. Athletic shoes in sizes 4-9 for women and sizes 7-12 for men would also be appreciated. The generosity of Milwaukie Lutheran Church

(Community Announcements, cont.)

members is GREATLY appreciated by the staff and students at Rowe MS!

- **MLC is turning 80!:** In 2026 our congregation will mark its 80th year as a community. In March 1946, Milwaukie Lutheran Church held its first worship; then in 1966, MLC held its first service in the current sanctuary. To celebrate this milestone event, an 80th Anniversary Committee has been formed and we need your help! We are looking for photos, mementos, and stories of your time at MLC. If you have any photos, stories, or suggestions, please reach out to a committee member (see below) soon. We are aiming to collect archival materials in time for the celebrations in March and June.

-80th Anniversary Committee:

Mike Hegel

Ruby Inman

Jamie Makara

Jim Rustvold

Susan Rustvold

Linda Seals

Scott Stauffer

- **Clackamas Service Center:** There is a need for men's shoes (especially sturdy, large sized men's shoes), belts, underwear, jeans, tops and warm coats. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Please also bring any paper, plastic and reusable bags you may have at your house for use at the Clackamas Service Center; the cost of paper bags has gone up dramatically and we use bags of all kinds. Donations can be left in the bin in the gathering place. Thank you!

(Community Announcements, cont.)

- **Regarding IRA Distributions:** Many here at MLC have reached the age at which the IRS requires minimum withdrawals (a Required Minimum Distribution or “RMD”) from your IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts). Some of you have decided to make your contributions to MLC directly from your IRA, as this is a beneficial tax strategy. Once you reach the age where you have an RMD requirement, if you donate money directly from your IRA to church (the money transfers directly via check or electronic funds transfer from your IRA custodian to MLC) this counts as an RMD, and the amount donated to MLC is not included in your income. It is NOT a charitable contribution but an actual reduction of income-which is great due to the increased standard deduction, which means many people do not itemize deductions on their federal tax return and are unable to deduct charitable contributions.

If you have questions about this process and the Federal and Oregon tax implications, please email Beth Lillie at bethlillie@comcast.net. If you have already decided to do this, please let Susan MacKinnon (susanmackinnon0@gmail.com) know about when and how (via check from your IRA custodian or a direct transfer to the MLC investment account) to expect the funds. WE ASSUME YOUR GIFT IS FOR GENERAL FUNDS unless you specify otherwise. MLC can then issue you a specific donation letter about the QCD from your IRA. It is hard for the counters (who deposit checks) and Beth Lillie (who deposits money sent to the MLC investment account at Charles Schwab) to identify from whom the money has been received. Susan, Beth and Sue and Jerry Prosa will work together to make sure your gift is properly acknowledged in a letter per IRS regulations for contemporaneous written acknowledgement.

227

GRACIOUS GOD

VERSES (♩ = ca. 88)

Capo 2: (D) E (G/D) (D) (A) A/E E E B

1. Lead us, Lord, in - to the des - ert; lead us through the wil - der -
2. In this time of sa - cred strug - gle, in this time of sac - ri -
3. Lord, we hun - ger for your pres - ence; Lord, we're thirst - ing for your
4. Teach us, Lord: who is our neigh - bor? Is it friend, or en - e -

(D) (G/D) (D) (A) E A/E E E B

1. ness. Through this jour - ney we will fol - low, for we long to see your
2. face, we re - joice, for we re - mem - ber that you lead us in - to
3. grace. When con - sum - ing all but you, Lord, all we gain is emp - ti -
4. my? When we wel - come or con - demn them, it is you, O let us

1 (D) 2-4 (D) REFRAIN (A) (A/G) (D/F#) (Em7) (D/F#) E B B/A E/G# F#m7 E/G#

D.C.

1. face. Gra - cious God, — mer - cy is your
2. life.
3. ness.
4. see.

(G) (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A7) (D) A E C#m7 F#m7 B7 E

name. Re-deem - ing Love, — you give your life a - way. —

(A) (A/G) (D/F#) (Em7) (D/F#) (G) (D) B B/A E/G# F#m7 E/G# A E

Gra - cious God, — we bless your ho - ly name. Re - ceiv - ing love, —

(Bm7) (Em7) (A7) (D) (G/D) (D) (A) (D) C#m7 F#m7 B7 E A/E E B E *D.C.* *(Fine)*

— we give our lives a - way. —

Questions Come to Light

What is it about the night that invites questions? As our head rests on the pillow and shadows stretch out on the bedroom wall, questions, like field mice, begin to emerge from the nooks and crannies of our mind. At first, the questions are utilitarian: Did someone let the dog out this evening? Are the kids' lunches packed for school? When am I going to get to the grocery store this week? And then, without warning, the questions morph: Is Grandma going to recover from this illness? Why are my prayers so short these days? Does Jesus really care about us—about me? At this point we know that night has truly descended. Truth uttered in darkness. Naked honesty feels much safer, much less exposed when light's reach seems a day away.

Maybe that is why we can relate to Nicodemus. For when did Nicodemus come to Jesus? By night! Though we can easily skip over the setting's description in this gospel encounter, it is so very important. With shadows dancing in the torchlight, Nicodemus makes his way to Jesus, beset by questions he can ask only under cover of darkness. Though the darkness is Nicodemus' security blanket, he cannot help himself. Like a moth fluttering in the night sky, Nicodemus is irresistibly drawn to the light. Not just any light: Jesus, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. As people filled with our own questions, we follow in the furtive footsteps of Nicodemus, falsely believing our naked honesty will remain hidden in the gloom of night. But the Spirit, through the light of Christ, calls us out from the shadows, and in fact, exposes us to the brilliance of God's love—a love that meets our questioning hearts with nothing less than life eternal.