

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235
412-824-4525
E-Mail: EastmontELC@Hotmail.com
www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org
Rev. Linda Orsen Theophilus, Pastor
420 Nike Drive - 412- 824-5945/412-401-5742 cell

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
March 1, 2026

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LET YOUR PEACE RAIN UPON US / KYRIE

PRAYER OF THE DAY - see Celebrate insert

FIRST LESSON - see Celebrate insert

PSALM 121 - see Celebrate insert

SECOND LESSON - see Celebrate insert

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

THE GOSPEL - see Celebrate insert

SERMON

HYMN #349 ELW

INSERT

NICENE CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - see Celebrate insert

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY / OFFERING PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION WITH LORD'S PRAYER

Thanksgiving and Sanctus

Eucharistic Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Distribution / Lamb of God

Blessing

Nunc Dimitus and Prayer

HYMN #779 ELW

#437 LLC

BENEDICTION / ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISMISSAL

Worship Booklet

Worship Booklet

GENESIS 12:1-4a

ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

Worship booklet

JOHN 3:1-17

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

"Ah, Santo Jesús"

p. 126

Worship booklet

Worship Booklet

"Amazing Grace"

"Sublime Gracia"

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

SUNDAY	10:00 a.m.	Worship
WEDNESDAY	1:00 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
	8:00 p.m.	AA

Let us pray for...

Melissa Stoller, **Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod**
Peter Asplin and Erin Jones, **Assistants to the Bishop**
Rev. Yehiel Curry, **Presiding Bishop, ELCA**
Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, **President, Lutheran World Federation**
President Modeste, **Tulear Synod, Malagasy Lutheran Church**

HEALING & SPECIAL NEEDS: Refugees & asylum seekers, Rachel F., Marilyn, Rose & Chip, Judy H., Roni, Karin, Tommy C., Darlene & Al, Lana, Dayton, Ed R., Nan, Sandra, Marylene, Yuri, Pr. Tony, Mitzi, Janet, Fernando, Derrick Sr., Len & Carole, Courtney, Lynn F. & Zach & Lynn's brother, Erin, Chareen W., Debbie B., Ed L., Noel, Myschel, Pr. Jaimie, Dave G., Diego, Sherl, Eddie O., Janet, Bob, Andrew W., Wael's family, Mark, Sydney B., Pr. Ken, Eric, Noah, Mindy, George & Debbie K., Leilani, Alicia, Ed R., Barbara R., Carol G., Debbie, Marion Q., Pr. Susan Schwartz, Karen M., Richard H., Marlene T., Kandy Sue, Luis S., Robin, Louie, and all with undiagnosed illnesses.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: Linda Davis, Shirley Daum.

NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Jane Freund (Concordia Ridgewood-Plum); Shirley & Jack Pickens (William Penn Center); Roni Mayhood (Merakey); Esther Schwab (Seneca Manor); June Minnear (Beatty Point Village); Peggy Ebert (Kane-McKeesport), Carole Hill (Concordia Monroeville).

CAREGIVERS: Judy M., Chris, Chip, Darlene, Alexis, John, Barbara, Len

EMPLOYMENT: Tom L.

COUNTRY OF THE MONTH: Georgia

MISSION PARTNER: Holy Trinity - East Pittsburgh

CHURCH OF THE MONTH: Trinity - Verona

LUTHERAN AGENCY: Lutheran Senior Life

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH: Gateway Middle School

CELEBRATE – SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, March 1, 2026

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. 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.

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.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

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.

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

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

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

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.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

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.”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages (*like George Herbert whom the church remembers today*), give your church the means to praise your beauty today.

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

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation.

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

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace.

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

Compassionate One, 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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly (*especially*) and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere (*especially*).

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal One, 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.

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

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**