

Readings + Second Sunday in Lent, year A + March 1, 2026

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

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.

Psalmody Psalm 121

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

Paul writes: ¹What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.

⁵But to one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

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

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s 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, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom Abraham trusted, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Holy Gospel John 3:1-17

Only John relates the story of Nicodemus and the night visit. There also are no direct parallels to Jesus’ teaching in this section.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jewish people. ²He 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.” ³Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the reign of God without being born from above.”

⁴Nicodemus said to Jesus, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no

one can enter the reign 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 Jesus, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "I tell you the truth, 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 trust me, how can you trust me if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son-of-Humanity. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son-of-Humanity be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever trusts in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that God gave the Son, the only begotten one, so that everyone who trusts in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."