

- WELCOME!** ✧ Welcome! We are glad you have joined us for worship. We are a Reconciling In Christ congregation and welcome people of every race, ethnic background, social status, physical limitation, sexual orientation and gender identity. Together in our diversity, we seek to embrace the love God offers us in Jesus the Crucified and Risen Christ.
- HOLY COMMUNION** ✧ You are invited to receive God's gifts of forgiveness and new life in Christ at God's table of Holy Communion. If you are joining from home, please set your table with bread or crackers and wine or grape juice. We are prepared and worthy to receive Holy Communion when we come with an open heart, trusting that God's love is for us.
- RECORDING** ✧ First Immanuel is committed to connect with people who are unable to be with us in person for worship. Please note that we are connected by Zoom and through YouTube. And as such, video recording takes place throughout the service.
- CHILDREN** ✧ We encourage children to participate with their families in worship. It is our custom to invite children to come forward for a special message from the Pastors just before the sermon. Parents are welcome to join them. A play area with a nursing area and changing table is downstairs. Please ask an usher.
- FLOWERS** ✧ Altar flowers today are given to the glory of God by Martha Driessnack.
- COFFEE** ✧ Please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall after worship, hosted by Martha Driessnack.
- MASKS** ✧ Masks are an effective way to protect us from infection. We are currently mask optional. We encourage frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer, and that you stay current on your vaccinations.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

INTERIM PASTORS	Christine Core & Scott Dunfee
ASSISTING MINISTER	James Bash
LECTOR	Suzanne Nelson
ACOLYTE	Skipper Bessette
USHERS	Lilli Bradin & Gary Nelson
COMMUNION PREPARATION	Chris & Maddie Wiens
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Ralph Nelson
ORGANIST	Karl Jurisons
CAMERA/SOUND TECH	Richard Wong

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT HOLY COMMUNION

1 March 2026

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC “We Pray Unto Thee” Dietrich Buxtehude, comp.

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTES

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* CALL TO WORSHIP “As the Sun with Longer Journey” ELW 329 (*red book*)

1. As the sun with longer journey melts the winter’s snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ’s uprising gently bring our hearts to life.

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* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS READ

Water is poured into the font...

Pastor: At the Baptismal font we were claimed and named as precious children of God.

People: In the waters of Baptism we were washed and made clean deep within.

Pastor: Meanwhile, the struggles of daily life and the brokenness of sin weigh us down and threaten to stain with guilt and shame.

People: So we return to the font to be restored and renewed in the gift of God’s grace and forgiveness. We come home to the divine welcome and tender embrace of God’s unconditional love.

Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Pastor: Let us make our confession:

People: Loving God, we confess that our fear and blindness have driven us far from you. Captive to a world of brokenness and sin, we are often anxious and adrift, sowing discord and pain in our own and others’ lives. Forgive us and call us back to you, from whom hope springs and love flows, and in whom mercy reigns and amazing grace rules.

* Please stand as you are able.

Pastor: God knows our need and hears our cries for help and healing. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, made whole, and welcomed home again. We are freed from all that holds us back and we are sent out into the world to live loving and courageous lives.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen**

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* **OPENING HYMN**

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660 (*red book*)

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world
adore his sacred name.**

1. Come, Christians, follow
where our captain trod,
our king victorious,
Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the
seal of him who died.

Refrain

3. O Lord, once lifted
on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised,
draw us all to thee.

Refrain

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the
Crucified for victory!

Refrain

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* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

People: **And also with you.**

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* **THE KYRIE**

SING: P. 3 CALL US HOME (*booklet*)

People: **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie e- le- eleison.
Gathered by your love, we pray for healing and hope,
Lord, give us peace, make us one, salvation come.
From your perfect love, bring your perfect reign
to ev'ry heart, ev'ry home,
Let love be known.
Lord our God have mercy, Jesus Christ have mercy,
Save us by your mercy, Lord.**

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* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Gracious God, our Leader and our Light, in the waters of Baptism you bring us new birth to live as your precious children. Strengthen our faith and trust in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your love for all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lover of our Souls. Amen**

WORD

CHOIR ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

John Stainer, comp.

THE FIRST LESSON

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.

From Sundays & Seasons 2026, © 2025 Augsburg Fortress.

Lector: Word of God, word of life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON

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.

From Sundays & Seasons 2026, © 2025 Augsburg Fortress.

Lector: Word of God, word of life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **GOSPEL PROCESSION**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SING: P. 7 CALL US HOME (booklet)

People: Return to the Lord your God,
the One who's gracious and merciful.
Return to the God of life,
the One who's waiting with love for you.
Whispering your name so tenderly—
Pleading with your heart to come home,
come home to the God who waits.
Return to the lord your God,
the One who's gracious and merciful—
Return, return, return.

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* THE GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

People: **Glory to you, O God.**

*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.*

From *Sundays & Seasons 2026*, © 2025 Augsburg Fortress.

* GOSPEL RESPONSE



This is the Gos-pel of the



Lord. We've heard God's— pro-mise to us.—



Thanks be to God for this Word of— life.

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CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Borning Cry”

ELW 732 (red book)

1. “I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.”
2. “When you heard
the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise
the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.”
3. “In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you
through the night,
complete what I’ve begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I’ll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise.”
4. “I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.”

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* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: Let us pray for the healing of our world, the Church, and all people in need.

After each petition...

Assistant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Loving God, in you alone we place our hope. In your wisdom and kindness grant healing and peace to all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

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INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL & CONGREGATION OFFICERS

Pastor: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? If so, please respond, “Yes, by the help of God.”

People: Yes, by the help of God.

HOLY COMMUNION

* SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Crucified and Risen One be with you always.

People: And also with you.

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GATHERING OF GIFTS

“Be Thou My Vision”

Sandra Eithun, arr.

* SETTING THE TABLE

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 685 (red book)

1. Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

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Assistant: Let us pray together.

People: Generous God, all we have and all we are comes from you. Graciously receive these gifts and fashion our whole lives into an offering of love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lover of our Souls. Amen

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* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: May God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Truly it is right and joyous to offer thanks and praise to you, O God in all places and in all circumstances of life, but especially in this season, as we prepare our hearts for the mystery of your saving love and healing power in Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. And so with all the saints and angels in heaven and on earth we raise our voices with this never-ending hymn of praise.

* **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

SING: P. 14 CALL US HOME (*booklet*)

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One, who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

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* **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Pastor: Gracious God of life and light, our hearts are full of gratitude, for in the beginning, you loved us into life and gathered us to your heart. You called us your people and called us back again when we were exiled far from you. Once captive in Egypt and Babylon, you brought us home to a place of refuge in you, guiding us through a wilderness of desert days and desperate nights.

People: Through every generation when your people became captive to darkness and despair, you called prophets and wise ones to illumine the way back to you. Promising that your light would never be extinguished, you brought it into the world in the person of Jesus, our light and our life.

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed...this cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me.

People: We remember, O God, and with this bread and cup we feast at your table in joyful anticipation of that day when all creation will find its home in you.

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SING: P. 16 CALL US HOME (*booklet*)

**People: God, Creator, call us home.
God, Christ Jesus, call us home.
God, Holy Spirit, call us home.
God, we're longing to come home. (Repeat...)**

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* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come home to God, for all is ready.

All are welcome at Christ's table, where the risen Christ is present to strengthen us to share in God's loving purposes for the world. The ushers will direct you to the altar rail. The glasses in the center of the communion tray contain grape juice for those who wish it. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please ask the pastor. To receive a pastoral blessing instead of the bread and wine, simply fold your hands.

LAMB OF GOD

SING: P. 17 CALL US HOME (booklet)

**Lamb of God, you take away our sin. Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away our fear, Lamb of God, you grant us peace.
Call us home when we've lost our way, adrift and alone in the world.
Lift the darkness of empty days, flooding us with light, 'til we return home.
Lamb of God, you take away our sin. Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you free us from our fear, Lamb of God, in you, our peace.**

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 1 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" ELW 608 (red book)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals
he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me. | 2. Why should we tarry
when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger
and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? |
|--|---|

Refrain:

**"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly,
Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

Refrain

3. Oh, for the wonderful
love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned,
he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

Refrain

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 2

"Eat This Bread"

ELW 472 (red book)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

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Sing English translation, then follow with Spanish, alternate as necessary...

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God.

*Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora.
Mi corazón te sabe decir: Santo eres, Señor.*

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* **BLESSING**

Pastor: May the gifts of Christ’s body and blood strengthen and unite us in the shelter of God’s grace.

People: Amen

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* **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Assistant: Let us pray.

People: Gracious God, as we have received Christ’s body and blood, so may we receive one another in a community of grace that extends to all of creation and the whole human race. Amen

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SENDING

* **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May God send you from this place renewed and at peace. Return now to the world with God’s blessing to courageously love and serve others and to share the promise of God’s welcome for all people. In the name of the One who is our home: Creator, ✠ Christ and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

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CLOSING HYMN**“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”**ELW 534 (*red book*)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Savior, again
to your dear name we raise
with one accord
our parting hymn of praise;
once more we bless you
ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending,
wait your word of peace.</p> <p>2. Grant us your peace
upon our homeward way;
with you began,
with you shall end the day;
guard all the lips
from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house
have called upon your name.</p> | <p>3. Grant us your peace,
Lord, through the coming night;
for us transform
its darkness into light.
Keep us from harm
and danger till the dawn;
your evening presence
promise to your own.</p> <p>4. Grant us your peace
throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow,
and our stay on strife;
then, when your voice shall
bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to
your eternal peace.</p> |
|--|--|

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*** SENDING**

Assistant: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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POSTLUDE**“Lamb of God Most Holy”****J.S. Bach, comp.**

*You are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for prayer.
The front section of our worship area is dedicated as quiet prayer space
following the close of worship. God be with you.*

Lent and Holy Week at First Immanuel**MIDWEEK WORSHIP**—Wednesdays at 6:30 PM throughout Lent**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29**—Worship with Passion reading at 11 AM**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2**—Soup Supper & Holy Communion
in Fellowship Hall at 6 PM**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3**—Worship at 7 PM**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5**—Worship & “Hallelujah Chorus” at 11 AM

Easter Breakfast at 9 AM, Children’s Egg Hunt at 10:30 AM

FIRST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“A Welcoming Community Centered in Christ’s Love,
Joyfully Reaching Out Together”*

1816 NW Irving Street, Portland, Oregon 97209

Phone: 503/226-3659

Office Hours: Mon.-Thu., 9 AM—5 PM

www.firstimmanuelluth.org

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MINISTRY TEAM

Every Member of First Immanuel

Interim Pastors: Christine Core & Scott Dunfee

Congregation President: Chris Weiss

Office Manager: Debbie Rehn

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chris Weiss, President

Andrew Drexler, Vice President

Jeannette O’Brien, Secretary

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CALL COMMITTEE

Brian Wilde, Chair

Gary Andeen, Rachel Dietz, Lauren Kim, Tyrell Servo, Cora Traetow

Note: For live links, please see our weekly e-news or website

About the “Call Us Home” Liturgy

We are using the “Call Us Home” liturgy in our worship service, and it will continue to be our liturgy during Lent and through Pentecost. Written by Oregonians Susan Granata and Bob Leon, it is sung in many other ELCA churches in the Oregon Synod—and is loved by congregations who learn it. Its message is one of comfort and peace—and in particular, to “come home.” Perhaps the words sung after the Eucharistic Prayer say it best: “God, we’re longing to come home.” You’ll find “Call Us Home” liturgy booklets in the pew racks. Ralph, Karl and the choir will help introduce the new pieces. May it bring hope and healing to all.



Adult Forum Study, Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join us to study Paul's letter to the Romans. We will use the study guide *Together by Grace: Bible Conversations—Romans*. We meet at 9:30 AM in the Sodergren Library, where Participant Guides are available for pickup.

Fun Facts about the Letter

- **Written by a Scribe:** Paul didn't write it himself; he dictated it to a scribe named Tertius, who mentions himself in Romans 16:22.
- **The Longest Letter:** At 7,114 words, it is by far the longest of Paul's letters, compared to an average of 1,300 words for his other epistles.
- **Historical Impact:** Martin Luther described it as “the purest gospel,” and it was a key text in his understanding of justification by faith alone.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99364415673?pwd=WURMaGhNV3ZVZ3BvMXpEK1F3RU5hUT09>
Meeting ID: 993 6441 5673, Passcode: 069629.

Altar flowers needed

It's easy and a great way to honor God's gift of natural beauty. Sign up on the flower chart in Fellowship Hall, or contact Debbie (503-226-3659, debbie@firstimmanueluth.org) with your preferred Sunday date and whether it's in honor or memory of a special person or occasion. Bring flowers on the Sunday you select.

After worship, take your flowers home or leave them for the pastors to share with others on home visits. Thanks! **Note: Thanks to a generous donor, you can be reimbursed for your flower purchase if you wish. Just ask Debbie for details (503-226-3659, debbie@firstimmanueluth.org).**





JELL-O-BRATION 2026! Next Sunday, March 8

Taste and vote for your favorites in Fellowship Hall following worship. Prizes awarded for the Best Tasting and Most Creative.

Can you help with coffee time?

Just bring some cookies or simple treats, your choice. Make two pots of coffee; the creamer/sugar are ready to go. Paper napkins and cups make clean-up super easy; just wash the coffee pots and a few utensils. Sign up on the chart in Fellowship Hall. You can also help by donating shelf-stable cookies, juice boxes or ground coffee. Thanks!



Help Fight Food Insecurity with Lift UP



We continue our partnership with LIFT Urban Portland to fight hunger. At this time, LIFT UP is focusing on three “Root Items”: canned soup, nut butter, and shelf stable milk. Cash gifts are also welcome: www.lifturbanportland.org. You can make

a donation and designate it in honor of First Immanuel.

Camp Lutherwood — Register Now for 2026!

“Camp Lutherwood has always been a second home. I love Lutherwood more than anything! It is the number one place to spend your summer. Keep doing what you're doing so I have more to love!!!!” —Soren, camper

“My daughter was very enthusiastic...[she] had a wonderful experience, and making new friend connections. It was clear that she had completely immersed herself in the experience and had a wonderful time. Thank you!” —Parent
Visit www.lutherwoodoregon.org for the full summer schedule



- Note Mini-Camp for grades 1 and 2 is scheduled for July 26-28 and 28-30
- Family Camps are scheduled for May 22-May 25 and July 17-July 19

New this year: Spring Break Makers Camp for Grades 6-12 — March 24-17. Immerse yourself in one of three areas: cooking, woodworking, or podcasting!

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

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. 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.

Psalms 121**SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

What then 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 him 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. ¹⁴For if 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 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, ¹⁷as 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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 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, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus 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?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The 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.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus 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. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that 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.”

Next Sunday’s Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42.

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