



Third Sunday of Lent
March 23, 2025

PRELUDE

Christ, You Lamb of God (Johann Sebastian Bach)

WELCOME

GATHERING

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

INVOCATION

The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P In the name of the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In honesty before God and one another, we acknowledge our sin and recall the cleansing and renewing power of God's promises in baptism.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Kneel or sit as you are comfortable. Silence is kept for reflection.

P St. John writes, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9). And so we gather to confess our sin, not because we fear God thinks us unworthy, but because we trust God's promise to receive us always in mercy and grace. Let us therefore pray together with confidence...

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Please stand and turn to face the processional cross.

GATHERING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (ELW 596)

**1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.**

**2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;**

**still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.**

**3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.**

**4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.**

GREETING

*With Saint Paul and generations of Christians, we greet one another in the name of God (2
Corinthians 13:14)*

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

Cantor: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain All

Ky-ri - e e - lei - - - son,
Chris - te e - lei - - - son,
Lord, have mer - cy up-on us.
Christ have mer - cy up-on us.

Cantor: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Cantor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Cantor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Cantor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All

A - men, A - - - - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the righteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thought than your thoughts.

R Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 63

Refrain: sing after cantor introduction and R



Mysoul is thirst-ing, mysoul is thirst-ing mysoul is thirst-ing for you, O Lord my God.

Verses: chant responsively with cantor



¹O God, you are my God; eager-ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where

there¹ is no water.

**²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your¹ holy place,
that I might behold your power¹ and your glory.**

³For your steadfast love is better than¹ life itself;
my lips shall¹ give you praise.

**⁴So will I bless you as long¹ as I live
and lift up my hands¹ in your name. R**

⁵My spirit is content, as with the rich-¹ est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with¹ joyful lips,

**⁶when I remember you up-¹ on my bed,
and meditate on you in¹ the night watches.**

⁷For you have¹ been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I¹ will rejoice.

**⁸My whole being¹ clings to you;
your right hand¹ holds me fast. R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.

⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be

tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

R Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

KIDS' MESSAGE

Stand (In preparation for the Gospel reading, we stand to honor and receive the story and the words of Jesus Christ.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re-tur-n 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, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

C **Glor-y to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²Jesus asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." ⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more

year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Andrew Kitzing

Stand

The Word of God and the theme of the day are repeated in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

All the Way My Savior Leads Me (TFF 259)

**1 All the way my Savior leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy,
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.**

**2 All the way my Savior leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for ev'ry trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul a-thirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see;
gushing from the rock before me;
lo, a spring of joy I see.**

**3 All the way my Savior leads me;
oh, the fullness of his love!**

**Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages--
Jesus led me all the way;
this my song through endless ages--
Jesus led me all the way!**

APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **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

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition, respond with, "receive our prayer."

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their news)

In our prayers with recent concerns: Doris Bushard, Fred Ohles, Michael Dalton, Julius Swen and Shari Peters. *Those with ongoing concerns:* Elaine Kruse, Pastor Bill Peterson, Mary Brass, Vern Westberg, Richard Bouma, Gloria Van Ackeren, and Tracy Troutman. *Those who are part of our homebound community:* Sylvia Kempf, M. Joyce Hansen, Donna Nelson, Cindy

Schuster, Betty Miller, Jeanette Metteer, Dennis Schuster, Ralph Hayden, Rod Price and Margrett Wehland.

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS SHARED

In an act of unity; blessing, and reconciliation, we greet one another with the Peace of Christ (Matthew 5:23-24)

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Sit

MUSICAL OFFERING

As the Deer (N. Strom/arr. B. Red)

Adult Choir

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

Cre - ate in me a clean heart. O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C **Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

In our table prayer we offer thanks and praise for God's act of salvation and for the meal we are about to share.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

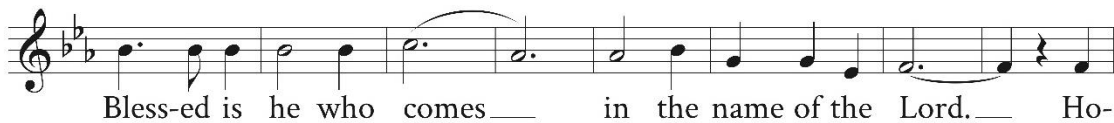
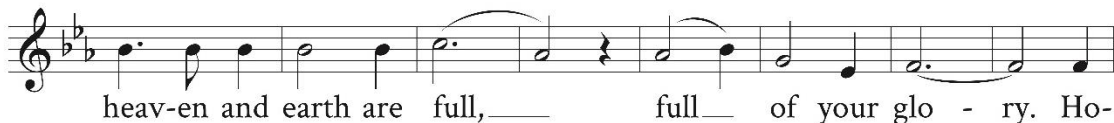
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed... *(here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C **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.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

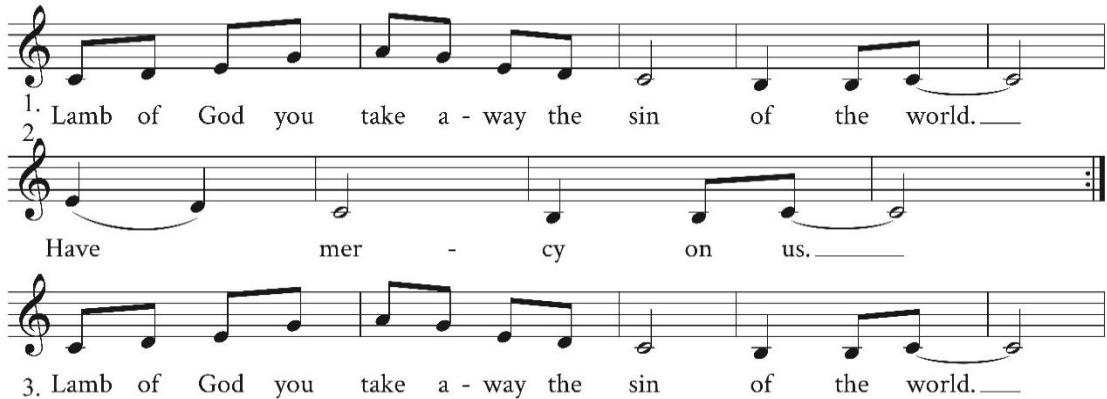
Adapted from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Life Together.

- P As the grains of wheat have been gathered together in this bread, so the members of the community of faith are united in body and blood at the table of the Lord, and so we will be together in eternity. Here joy in Christ and Christ's community is complete. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

LAMB OF GOD





COMMUNION MUSIC

When Jesus Wept (William Billings)

Ann Nitzel, Betsy Bjerke, Priscilla Hayden-Roy, & Martha Tanner

COMMUNION HYMNS

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (ELW 484)

Refrain

**You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.**

**1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. *Refrain***

**2 With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. *Refrain***

**3 Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain***

**4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain***

**5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. *Refrain***

- 1 **My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!**

- 2 **May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!**

- 3 **While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**

- 4 **When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!**

Stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C **Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be 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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (ELW 803)

1 **When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

2 **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

3 **See, from his head, his hands, his feet,**

sorrow and love flow mingled down.

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

DISMISSAL

P Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Tocatta in D Minor (Johann Jacob Froberger)

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger

Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing

Cantor: Ann Nitzel

Livestream: Jim Overcash

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