



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH 23, 2025



Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered. When we draw near to God, He draws near to us. Therefore, let us draw near to our loving God to confess our sins knowing that,
- C** **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- C** **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**
- P** Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who honor Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does our God remove our transgressions from us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

Service of the Word

Gathering Hymn: LSB 861 Christ Be My Leader



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024

Tune: Irish

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Tune: Public domain

Kyrie

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- L** Let us pray.
O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to us when we go astray from Your ways and bring us again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

- C** **Amen.**

Lenten Litany

You are the life; the rending tomb
Proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
And those who put their trust in you
Not death nor hell shall harm.

- L** Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."
- C** **We now live our lives abundantly by his grace.**
- L** Having been justified by Christ's grace, made manifest on the cross,
- C** **We have become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

You are the life; the life of grace
Abides forevermore;
Unto the cross you set your face;
Our bond to God restore.

- L** God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.
- C** **By grace you have been saved.**
- L** He died for all,
- C** **So that those who live might live no longer for themselves**
- L** But for the one who for their sake died and was raised.
- C** **So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:**
- L** Everything old has passed away;
- C** **Look, new things have come into being!**
- L** St. Paul said, "We know that the one who raised Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and will present us with you in his presence."
- C** **Indeed, everything is for our sake, so that grace, when it has extended to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving to the glory of God.**

You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow.

Children's Message

Old Testament

Ezekiel 33:7-20

- A** The Old Testament reading is from the thirty-third chapter of the book of Ezekiel.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? ¹² And you, mortal, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not save them when they transgress; and as for the wickedness of the wicked, it shall not make them stumble when they turn from their wickedness; and the righteous shall not be able to live by their righteousness when they sin. ¹³ Though I say to the righteous that they shall surely live, yet if they trust in their righteousness and commit iniquity, none of their righteous deeds shall be remembered; but in the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ¹⁴ Again, though I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die,"

yet if they turn from their sin and do what is lawful and right—¹⁵ if the wicked restore the pledge, give back what they have taken by robbery, and walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity—they shall surely live, they shall not die.¹⁶ None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live.¹⁷ Yet your people say, “The way of the Lord is not just,” when it is their own way that is not just.¹⁸ When the righteous turn from their righteousness, and commit iniquity, they shall die for it.¹⁹ And when the wicked turn from their wickedness, and do what is lawful and right, they shall live by it.²⁰ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is not just.” O house of Israel, I will judge all of you according to your ways!

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 8

- L** Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** **You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**
- L** You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- C** **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.**
- L** Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- C** **Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?**
- L** Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
- C** **Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**
- L** Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- C** **Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**
- L** Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- C** **The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**
- L** Righteousness will go before him,
- C** **And will make a path for his steps.**
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

- A** The Epistle reading is from the tenth chapter of the book of 1 Corinthians.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.⁷ Do 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.”⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.¹¹ These 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.¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.¹³ No 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.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual for Lent

- L** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
- C** **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**
- L** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
- C** **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Solo: Jesus Sinners Will Receive *Text: Erdmann Neumeister Tune: Katolishces Gesangbuch Arrangement: John Perovich*

Verse for Lent

- C** **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

- P** [The Lord] is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish,
- C** **But that all should reach repentance.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or 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? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” ⁶ Then 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. ⁷ So 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?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: LSB 739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
 2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 When my life is al - most gone,
 And the day is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
 Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
 At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

Text and tune: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993
 Text and tune: © 1938 (renewed) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., admin. Alfred Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000779

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

L Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

(Each petition ends with the words, "Lord, in Your Mercy." The congregation responds with the words, "Hear our prayer.")

L All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Offering

C Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,
 "Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."
 Time to share our gifts and say,
 "Thank you Lord for each new day."

Offertory Prayer

L Merciful Lord, You gave up Your Son for us so that we would have life with You forever. As we journey through this Lenten season toward the cross open our eyes to see the greatness of Your love for us. Grant that Your love for us would move us to love others in word and action. Accept these offerings that we bring before You with thanksgiving and gratitude for all of Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them for Your glory and to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name, we pray,

C Amen

Offertory

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
 I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer

L God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

C 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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Hymn: LSB 761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-78
Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: LSB 809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Refrain
 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960
 Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870–1957
 Text: Public domain
 Tune: Public domain

The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

- C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
 Your word has been fulfilled.
 My own eyes have seen the salvation
 which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
 A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
 Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

The Sending of the Eucharistic Ministers

The Eucharistic ministers come forward to receive the bread and wine from the altar so that they may take it and distribute it to our shut-ins. After handing them the elements, the pastor says:

P Gracious God, you love all the members of your family with tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist our Eucharistic ministers in the ministry on which they are sent. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom they bring this Sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.

C Amen.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benedicamus

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service. We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.

C Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.

L We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.

C Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.

L We have received the gifts of God given in Holy Communion.

C As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.

L As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and engage in service.

C We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.

P As you go, receive the blessing of our God:

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C Amen.

Sending Hymn: LSB 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
 2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
 3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
 4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
 With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
 Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
 Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
 Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
 From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
 Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
 That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
 For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
 Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-93
 Tune: Edward J. Hopkins, 1818-1901
 Text and tune: Public domain

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