



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH 8, 2026



Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: Jesus Met the Woman at the Well

St Johns Adult Choir

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 826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,
“Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?

If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the judgment’s dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior’s waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion’s wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off’ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet’s hands.

Let none hear you idly saying,
“There is nothing I can do,”
While the multitudes are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
“Here am I, send me, send me!”

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (st. 3): unknown, alt.
Text: 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.**

Salutation and 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 all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them 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.

C **Amen.**

Lenten Litany

L In your passion and death, O Lord, there is great sorrow and there is great joy.

C **While we are sad that our sins required you to go to the cross, we are overjoyed that your cross will graciously grant us new life.**

L As you watched the soldiers crucifying you,

C **You asked God the Father to graciously forgive them.**

L In the midst of the sorrow on Calvary,

C **You promised the joy of Paradise to the repentant thief on the cross next to you.**

L In your last moments of pain on this earth,

C **You kindly told your mother and John to treat each other like family.**

L Upon your agonizing death, a Roman centurion came to faith with the words:

C **“Truly this man was the Son of God.”**

L So when we suffer any hardship this Lent or any time,

C **We should remember to take care because you have overcome the world.**

L When we are experiencing any guilt or shame,

C **We should remember that we are loved and forgiven by you, no matter what.**

L When we are grieving the loss of a loved one,

C **We should remember that on the third day you will rise again so that we may rise again.**

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o’ertake me,
Hopes deceive and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me.
Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

Children's Message

Old Testament

Exodus 17:1–7

A The Old Testament reading is from the seventeenth chapter of the book of Exodus.

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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

Psalm

Psalm 95:1-9

- L** O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- C** Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- L** For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
- C** In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
- L** The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
- C** O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
- L** For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!
- C** Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
- L** when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof,
- C** though they had seen my work.
- 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

Romans 5:1–8

- A** The Epistle reading is from the fifth chapter of the book of Romans.

¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

- 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.

Verse

- C** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
- P** The hour is coming, and is now here,
- C** When the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: LSB 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Praise the One who breaks the darkness
 With a liberating light;
 Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
 Turning blindness into sight.
 Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
 Healing ev'ry dread disease,
 Calming storms, and feeding thousands
 With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children
 With a strong, yet gentle, word;
 Praise the One who drove out demons
 With the piercing, two-edged sword.
 Praise the One who brings cool water
 To the desert's burning sand;
 From this Well comes living water,
 Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955
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Apostles' Creed

G 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.
- P** O Lord, our God, take from us the sin that we commit in our lives. And give to us new hearts that love and serve you, and the people around us. As we walk with Jesus to the cross, enable us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L** Loving God, we pray For bold, unwavering trust in your grace, grant that we always rejoice in all the good gifts from above that you give out of your great love for us, Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- P** Sending God, we pray For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, strengthen your people in their faith and let your Gospel Kingdom extended to all nations, to the very ends of the earth, fill us with joy and zeal for living as your disciples who join you in your mission in this world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L** Gracious God, we pray For this congregation, her joining you in your mission and her people; give us the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work you have given us to do; and grant us the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- P** Gracious God we pray for our partners in ministry in this community, for Gathering Lambs, Kent Bible Church, Luther Towers, and Interfaith Housing Alliance for the Poor, bless them and the good work they do in our community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L** Healing God, we pray For those who are sick, *[especially those we love, who need your healing and care, that we name before you; out loud or in our hearts _____,]* grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- P** Compassionate God, we pray For those who suffer from the lack of any human necessity, move those who have been blessed with an abundance to cheerfully share. Allow justice, mercy, peace, and compassion to grow and increase in us, among us, and through us. And heal our world from the evils of injustice, prejudice, inequality, and hatred. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

- L** Serving God, we pray For all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, as we eat and drink, fill us with thankfulness for the benefits that we receive in this precious gift, as through it you give to us forgiveness of sins, renewal of life and a foretaste of the feast to come. Work through your means of grace to strengthen our faith and to increase our love and service to you, to one another, and to our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- P** 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.
- G** **Amen.**

Offering

- G** **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,
- G** **Amen**

Offertory

- G** **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.
- G** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- G** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- G** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- 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

- G** 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.
- G** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer

- P** God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:
- G** 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.
- G** Amen.

Agnus Dei

- G** 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

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78

Text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: LSB 763 When Peace, like a River

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain

It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. Refrain

He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. Refrain

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt.

Text: 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

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 who 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 648 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

Glorious things of you are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed you for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake your sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
You may smile at all your foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply your sons and daughters
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a cov'ring,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which God gives them on their way.

Savior, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Your name.
Fading are the world's vain pleasures,
All their boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasures
None but Zion's children know.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
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