



March 19, 2025

Third Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

- ♪ Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin. However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been, However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.
- ♪ Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in Shall find a Father’s welcome  
And pardon for their sin. The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv’n,  
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav’n.
- ♪ Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits; His blessed angels gather  
Around the heav’nly gates. No question will be asked us How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home.
- ♪ O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door, What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o’er? When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 915-Text: Oswald Allen 1816-78; Public Domain.*

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

## Psalmody *Please Be Seated*

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord!

**O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

**But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

**My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,**

More than watchmen for the morning.

**O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

**Glory be 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.**

## Confession and Absolution

### The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, by the death and resurrection of Your only Son, You have shown the world that the way of self-sacrifice is the way of life. Give us such a strong faith in Your providence that we will not shrink from any sacrifice You ask of us but rejoice to offer our lives to Him who gave His life for us—that is, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn Introduction

### The Hymn

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

- ♪ Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.
- ♪ Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
- ♪ Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.
- ♪ They that drink shall live forever; ’Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 435 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854; Public Domain.*

## Old Testament Reading

Genesis 6:9–22

<sup>9</sup>These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup>And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. <sup>11</sup>Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. <sup>13</sup>And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. <sup>14</sup>Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. <sup>15</sup>This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. <sup>16</sup>Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. <sup>17</sup>For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. <sup>18</sup>But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup>And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. <sup>20</sup>Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. <sup>21</sup>Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.” <sup>22</sup>Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

## Prayer Response

### The Epistle

1 Peter 3:13–22

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

### Gradual Hymn

“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”

- ♪ All Christians who have been baptized, Who know the God of heaven,  
And in whose daily life is prized The name of Christ once given:  
Consider now what God has done, The gifts He gives to everyone  
Baptized into Christ Jesus!
- ♪ You were before your day of birth, Indeed, from your conception,  
Condemned and lost with all the earth, None good, without exception.  
For like your parents' flesh and blood, Turned inward from the highest good,  
You constantly denied Him.
- ♪ But all of that was washed away, Immersed and drowned forever.  
The water of your Baptism day Restored again whatever  
Old Adam and his sin destroyed And all our sinful selves employed  
According to our nature.
- ♪ In Baptism we now put on Christ- Our shame is fully covered  
With all that He once sacrificed And freely for us suffered.  
For here the flood of His own blood Now makes us holy, right, and good  
Before our heav'nly Father.
- ♪ O Christian, firmly hold this gift And give God thanks forever!  
It gives the power to uplift In all that you endeavor.  
When nothing else revives your soul, Your Baptism stand and makes you whole  
And then in death completes you.
- ♪ So use it well! You are made new- In Christ a new creation!  
As faithful Christians, live and do Within your own vocation,  
Until that day when you possess His glorious robe of righteousness  
Bestowed on you forever.

## **Holy Gospel** *Please Stand*

Luke 22:63–71

<sup>63</sup>Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. <sup>64</sup>They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” <sup>65</sup>And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

<sup>66</sup>When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, <sup>67</sup>“If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, <sup>68</sup>and if I ask you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup>But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” <sup>70</sup>So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” <sup>71</sup>Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

## **Apostles' Creed**

### **The Hymn** *Please Be Seated*

“Christ the Life of All the Living” (vv. 1-4, 7)

♪ Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

♪ Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

♪ Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

♪ Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn  
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee. All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,  
That as Thine Thou mightest own me And with heav'nly glory crown me.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

♪ Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 420 -Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg 1605-81, tr.Catherine Winkworth 1827-78; Public Domain.

## **Proclamation of the Word**

“Jesus: Our Beginning”

Luke 22:63–71

## **Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

## Lord's Prayer

### Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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?
- ♪ Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 425-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Public Domain.*

## Door Offering