



March 23, 2025

The Third Sunday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

♪ Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.

Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not;

As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

~Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

♪ Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ~Great is...

♪ Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. ~Great is....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 809 - Text: Thomas O. Chisholm 1866-1960; Tune: William M. Runyan 1870-1957

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## Invocation

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

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

**And put away Your indignation toward us!**

Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,

**And grant us Your salvation.**

*Psalm 85:4, 7*

## Confession and Absolution

God has made us His people by our Baptism into Christ. He graciously provides us with all we need to live in true faith, confidence, and hope. Let us present ourselves before Him, confessing our sins and need for His mercy, and receive His promised help.

**Almighty God, our Father in heaven, we come to You seeking Your forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith that we may live and serve You faithfully. We confess all our sins against You and against those whom we have hurt or failed to help. Even our very thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. In true sorrow, we ask for Your grace, Your forgiveness, and that You strengthen our faith, all for the sake and in the praise of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*A Time of Silence*

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful.”

*1 Corinthians 10:13*

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Introit

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

*Psalm 1:6*

**For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with You.**

The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all evildoers.

**You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**

But I, through the abundance of Your steadfast love, will enter Your house.

**I will bow down toward Your holy temple in the fear of You.**

Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; make Your way straight before me.

*Psalm 5:4–8*

**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.**

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

*Psalm 1:6*

## Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.

**Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

*Ezekiel 33:7–20*

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. <sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. <sup>17</sup>“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

## The Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

<sup>1</sup>For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

## Gradual Hymn *Please Stand*

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

- ♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross. Lift high His royal banner;  
It must not suffer loss. From vict’ry unto vict’ry His army He shall lead  
Till ev’ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.
- ♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey; Stand forth in mighty conflict  
In this His glorious day. Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.
- ♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone. The arm of flesh will fail you,  
Ye dare not trust your own. Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.  
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.
- ♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long; This day the din of battle,  
The next the victor’s song. The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see  
And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1–9

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

## Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

### The Hymn

“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.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 761-Text: Augustus M. Toplady 1740-78; Public Domain.*

## Proclamation of the Word

“It’s Quite Simple”

Ezekiel 33:7–20

## Apostles’ Creed

## Offering and Musical Offering

**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.

**Amen.**

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**Recessional Hymn** *Please Be Seated*

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

- ♪ My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!
- ♪ 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!
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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;  
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 702 - Text: Ray Palmer 1808-87; Public Domain.*

**Postlude**