

Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025
10:30 a.m.

I said, "I will confess
my TRANSGRESSIONS
to the LORD."
And you FORGAVE the
GUILT of my sin.

Psalm 32:5, NIV



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

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Can we take the news to heart? Each story we encounter in this season is really about us. Lent began as we were reminded by an ashen cross that we do not have forever. The clock is ticking; the forty days are unwinding. We have now! If we take this day seriously, we may discover that our deepest hungers can be filled. When we know that we are heading toward a forgiving God, the news becomes good news.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Stand

[P] In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

[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.**

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

[P] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

[P] Most merciful God,

[C] We confess that we are in bondage 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] Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

Stand

GREETING OF PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -

by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er

Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -

pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: Ludvig M. Ländeman, 1812–87; setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978

NAAR MIT ÔIE
87 87 77

KYRIE

[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.**

[P] In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



[P] For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



[P] 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.



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



[P] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



The HYMN OF PRAISE is traditionally omitted during Lent

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] Lord Be with you. **[C] And also with you.**

[P] Eternal Lord, 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, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 33:7-20

R 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. 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. 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.

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?’ 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? 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. 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. 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— 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. 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.

Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just’, when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turn from their righteousness, and commit iniquity, they shall die for it. And when the wicked turn from their wickedness, and do what is lawful and right, they shall live by it. 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!

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

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

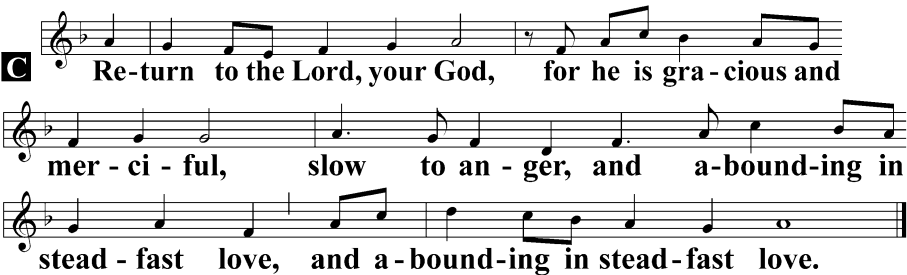
Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

R 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, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 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." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 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. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 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.

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

Stand

C  Re-turn 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.

GOSPEL [P] The Gospel is written in Luke chapter 13, beginning at verse 1.

[C] Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus addresses the age-old question of whether people deserve the seemingly random calamities that happen to them. The short answer is no. But the key to our peace is using the present moment to throw ourselves upon God's grace.

[P] At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 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? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

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. 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?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 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.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator 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 again 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.**

MESSAGE

"All Sins"

Stand

HYMN "May God Bestow On Us His Grace"



1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -
 2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry
 Δ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -
 vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face
 na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
 creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,
 To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing
 The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the
 Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,
 health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,
 earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;
 God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!
 And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out
 Thy peo - ple's pas - sure is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
 Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -
 mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.
 nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.
 sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
 Tune: David Lee, b. 1956

ELVET BANKS
 87 87 87 87 7

Text: Public domain
 Tune: © 2004 David Lee

Ps. 67:1–2; 96:10–13; Is. 55:10–11; 62:1–2

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “hear our prayer.” The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



OFFERTORY PRAYER AND SONG

P Let us pray. God our provider,

C you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. As our ancestors offered the first fruits of harvest, so we bring what is precious for sharing as there is need. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty.

introduction

C Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, ' and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer



THE PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.



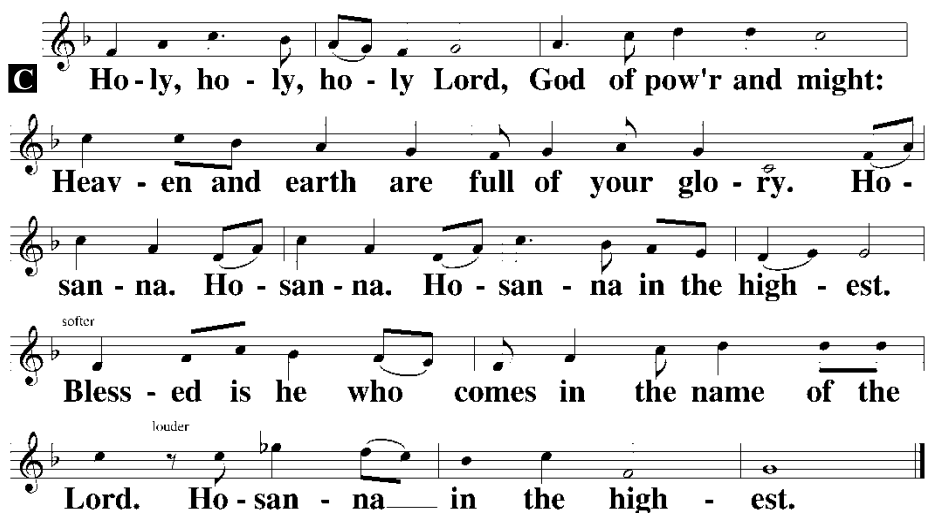
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[P] In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

[P] Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

[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

THE LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.

HYMN “Eat This Bread”

Refrain

Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev-er be hun - gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst.

Cantor or Choir *Refrain*

1 This is His bod-y giv-en for you; this is His blood that was shed for you.

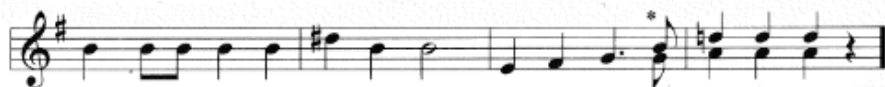
2 As of-ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un-til He comes a-gain.



3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.



4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.



5 If we be-lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

Text: Robert J. Batistini, b. 1942, and Taizé Community,
Refrain and sts. 3-5; Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955, sts. 1-2
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-94

EAT THIS BREAD
Irregular meter

Text (Refrain and sts. 3-5) and music: © 1984 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France; admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
Text (sts. 1-2): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House John 6:35; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 6:48-58

Stand

THE BLESSING

[P] The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **[C] Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

[P] Let us pray. God our strength, in this holy meal you spread a table with the richest of food; you send rivers in the desert. May the life you give us in this feast so nourish us that our own lives may extend your welcome to all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **[C] Amen.**

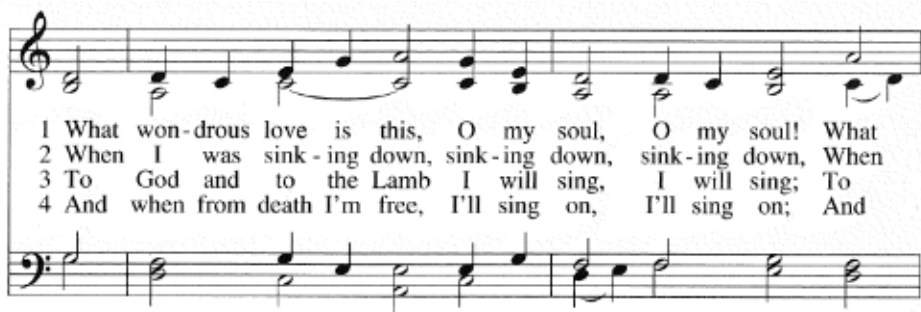
BENEDICTION

[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.**

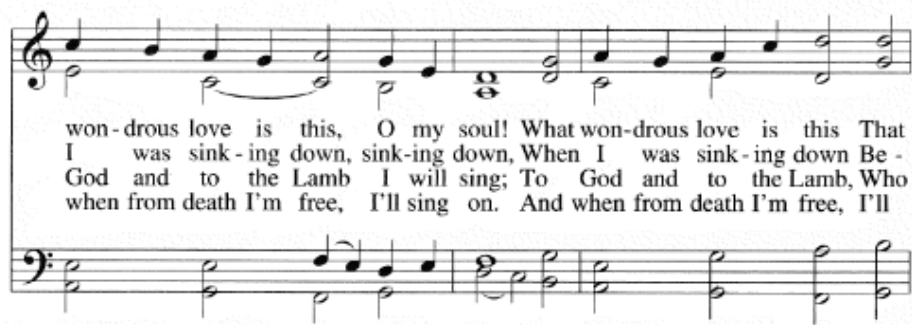
[P] Go in peace; serve the Lord. **[C] Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN

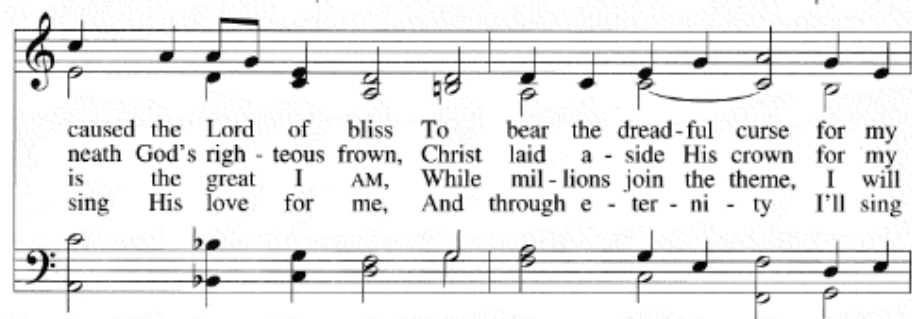
"What Wondrous Love is This"



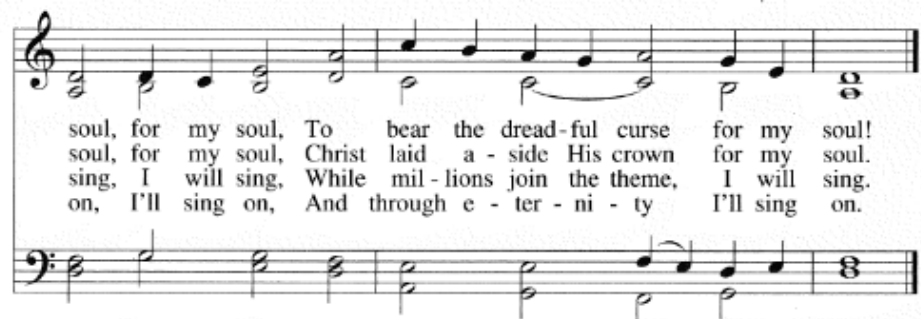
1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
 neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
 is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
 sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: *A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, Lynchburg, 1811, alt.
 Tune: *Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835; setting: Donald A. Busarow, b. 1934

WONDROUS LOVE
 12 9 66 12 9

Text and tune: Public domain
 Setting: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*

I John 4:7-10; Rev. 5:6-12; John 8:58

POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.
