

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8, 2026

**WE ARE ONE CHRISTIAN FAMILY LED BY GOD'S WORD AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT INTO LOVING SERVICE.**

Our values are

**Bible Based Preaching, Spiritual Growth, Great Commission (Go,
Make Disciples...)**

PRELUDE

GREETING

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" LW 96

**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 sorrow and contrition, wounded impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Your true health it will restore, so that you need thirst no more.**

**Come with hurts and guilts and meanness, come, however soiled
within;
From the most ingrained uncleanness, from pollution by your sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; you shall walk with God in
light.**

**Take the life that lasts forever; trust this soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.**

INVOCATION

(ref. Matthew 18:20)

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

C: Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *(1 John 1:8)*

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:9)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. *(ref. Ps 32:5)*

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. 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 you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to you: your sin is forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *(Ref. Matt. 18:18; John 20:22-23)*

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Christ the Life of All the Living" LW 94 v1

**Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:
Through your suff'ring, death, and merit Life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 17:1-7

¹The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" ³But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" ⁴Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 5:1-8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL John 4:5-30, 39-42

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4th chapter.

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ¹¹"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" ¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." ¹⁷"I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." ¹⁹"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." ²⁵The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." ²⁷Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ... ³⁹Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in

him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."
⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴²They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus Sinners Will Receive" LW 229 (alt tune LW 139)

**Jesus sinners will receive; may they all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners will receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim. Here our ills have perfect healing,
We with humble hearts believe Jesus sinners will receive.**

**When their sheep have lost their way, faithful shepherds go to seek
them;
Jesus watches all who stray, faithfully to find and take them
In his arms that they may live—Jesus sinners will receive.**

**Come, O sinners, one and all, come, accept his invitation;
Come obey his gracious call, come and take his free salvation!
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners will receive.**

**Jesus sinners will receive. Even me he has forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave—Jesus sinners will receive.**

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES CREED

**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 - concluding with

P: Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, And take not your Holy Spirit
From me. Restore to me The joy of your salvation and uphold me with
your free Spirit.**

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift your hearts and hands in praise

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 helpful... evermore praising you and singing:

**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.**

PRAYERS AND THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom 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.

P: Our Lord on the night he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

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

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

The Nunc Dimittis

C*: Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation: Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

(Numbers 6:24-26)

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

CLOSING HYMN "Abide With Us, Our Savior" LW 287

**Abide with us, our Savior, Nor let your mercy cease;
From Satan's might defend us, And give our hearts your peace.**

**Abide with us, our Helper, Sustain us by your Word;
Let us and all your people To living faith be stirred.**

**Abide with us, Redeemer, O Light, eternal Light;
Your truth direct and guide us To flee from error's night.**

**Abide in princely bounty With us, Largehearted Lord,
Our lives with grace and wisdom Enriching through your Word.**

**Abide as our protector Among us, Lord, our strength;
Let world and wily Satan Be overcome at length.**

**Abide among us always, O Lord, our faithful friend,
And take us to your mansions When time and world shall end.**

Silent prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE