

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2026

### AS WE GATHER

It often seems that life is a debate about the things we do not know. What is truth? What is right and wrong? Where is God? None of these questions are theoretical and all of them are answered in Christ, whom we know as Savior and Redeemer. The Law reveals the depth of our need and our sinful hearts. Christ was sent to make known the love of the Father. Gathered in worship, we meet where Christ is—in His Word and Sacraments. Faith is not about what we do not know but about what we do know. Christ is our all. He fulfills the promise of the Old Testament and completes our redemption. We confess Him who came, who comes to us now through the means of grace, and who will come again to deliver us to the Father. We are a Church sent to bring Christ and His Word of life to people - and so we gather to hear and then are sent to speak and live lives of grace and hope in Christ.

### HYMN “O Christ, Our True And Only Light” LSB 839

- 1 O Christ, our true and only light,  
Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice  
And in Your fold with us rejoice.
  
- 2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace  
The souls now lost in error’s maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
  
- 3 O gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev’ry conscience sore oppressed  
In You find peace and heav’nly rest.
  
- 4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand’ers to Your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
  
- 5 That they with us may evermore  
Such grace with wond’ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to You be giv’n  
By all Your Church in earth and heav’n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Andachtige Haus-Kirche, Numberg, 1676; setting: Johannes C. A. Zahn, 1817-95

Text and tune: Public domain

Setting: © 1984 Bavarian Lutheran Church

### INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 84:4–5*

- P Blessed are those who dwell in Your house ever singing Your praise!  
C **Blessed are those whose strength is in You, in whose hearts are the highways to Zion.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

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 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.**

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## PSALM

<sup>1</sup>Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,  
<sup>8</sup>**do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

<sup>9</sup>when your fathers put me to the test  
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.  
**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.**

## KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Amen.**

### SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Exodus 17:1-7*

The 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. So 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?" But 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?" Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." he 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. I 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. And 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?" (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE

*Romans 5:1-8*

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 4:5–26*

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

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

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The 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.) Jesus 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." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are 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?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but 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." The 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." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The 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." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet 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. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## APOSTLES' CREED

C **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.**

**HYMN “On Galilee’s High Mountain” LSB 835**

- 1 On Galilee’s high mountain  
Christ gave the great command  
In words of strength and promise  
Which all can understand:  
“All pow’r to Me is given  
To do what I shall choose;  
Therefore I send My children,  
Their witness I will use.”
- 2 The Lord who, born of Mary,  
Came down as man and died,  
Who preached to all who listened,  
For us was crucified—  
This Lord, our living brother,  
In pow’r at God’s right hand,  
Has chosen us to carry  
His truth to ev’ry land.
- 3 His strength within my weakness  
Will make me bold to say  
How His redeeming power  
Transforms my stubborn clay;  
His touch of fire ignites me,  
With courage I am sent,  
My tongue-tied silence broken,  
With grace made eloquent.
- 4 And not alone to nations  
In faraway retreats,  
But ev’rywhere I broadcast  
His love through crowded streets:  
The lives that my life touches,  
However great or small—  
Let them through me see Jesus,  
Who served and saved us all.
- 5 That ev’ryone He chooses,  
For reasons of His own,  
Will find in Christ his calling  
To live His love alone.  
His presence always leads us  
Till time no more shall be;  
Christ’s strength, His love, His comfort  
Give us His victory.
- D 6 Lord, gather all Your children,  
Wherever they may be,  
And lead them on to heaven  
To live eternally  
With You, our loving Father,

And Christ, our brother dear,  
Whose Spirit guards and gives us  
The joy to persevere.

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932–96

Music: Lowell Mason

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**SERMON From Acts To Action - *A Sent & Sending Church***

**Text: Acts 13:1-12**

**OFFERING**

**HYMN “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross” LSB 426**

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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?
- 4 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!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, London, 1778; Edward Miller, 1731-1807

Setting: The Worshipbook: Services and Hymns, 1972

Text and music: Public domain

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P Having been led through the wilderness and brought into the light of God’s presence, let us not fail to pray for the church, for our nation, for all the needs of the people, and for ourselves.

That we long for the true and living water that is Jesus Christ and build our hopes upon Him who is the rock of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That our curiosity for the things we are not given to know not distract us from Him whom we do know and that we dwell on Christ—the glory of the Father and the revelation of the Holy Spirit—that we might believe and be saved, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we address all the peoples of every nation with the Word of Christ and that they know with us the blessing of forgiveness, the gift of life, and the joy of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That the pastors and church workers serve with faithfulness and that many be called and those preparing for church work blessed in their calling, and that all the schools of our church be blessed as they teach and learn God's Word with joyful hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That the Lord visit with His mercy those of every need, relieving the suffering, giving peace to the dying, and consoling the grieving, [*especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

*Additional petitions may be added here.*

**P** That we rejoice at the daily bread supplied to us and remember to be grateful to the Lord who supplies all things needed for this body and life and be generous to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Having known the goodness of the Lord in providing what we neither deserve nor dare ask apart from Christ, let us rejoice in His blessing and follow where He leads to everlasting light, as we look forward to the blessed reunion with those whom we love that have departed this life in faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **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.**

## **HYMN "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling" LSB 827**

**1** Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,  
"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”?

2 Some take up His task in morning,  
To their Lord responding soon;  
Some are called in heat of midday,  
Others late in afternoon;  
Even as the sun is setting,  
Some are sent into the fields,  
There to gather in the bounty  
That God’s Word so richly yields.

3 For as rain and snow from heaven  
Water seeds in dusty soil,  
Causing them to bud and flower,  
Giving bread to those who toil;  
So the Lord sends forth His promise,  
Words of life and joy and peace—  
Never void to Him returning,  
Bearing fruit with great increase.

4 Hearken to the Lord whose coming  
Marks the time when grace shall end,  
When with His angelic reapers  
He in glory shall descend.  
Soon the night, the final harvest;  
Soon the time for work shall cease.  
Then the souls His grace has garnered  
Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

Text (st. 1): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (sts. 2–4): Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838-96; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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