

*Introduction to the day:* The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.*

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### **OPENING SONG/PRELUDE**

*How Can I Keep From Singing*

©Matt Maher, Chris Tomlin

*(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)*

## **WELCOME**

*The congregation invited to stand as they are able and face the baptismal font.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of God,  
who makes a way in the wilderness,  
walks with us,  
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

**Amen.**

Holy One,  
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:  
we have not trusted your promises,  
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,  
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,  
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.  
Have mercy on us!**

**Forgive us and turn us again to you.**

**Teach us to follow in your ways,  
assure us again of your love,  
and help us to love our neighbor.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
the Word draws near to you,  
and all who call out to God shall be saved.  
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again  
and gathers you under wings of love.  
In **✝** Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.  
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

**Amen.**

*Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.*

**GATHERING SONG** *As The Deer* ©Martin Nystrom

*D A/C# Bm Bm/A G A/sus A D*

As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter you.

*D A/C# Bm D/A D/F# Em7 A7sus A7 D*

You a - lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor - ship you.

*Bm Bm/A G D/F# G Bm/F# Em F#sus F#*

You a - lone are my strength, my shield, to you a - lone may my spir-it yield;

*INTRO*  
*D A/C# Bm D/A D/F# Em7 A7sus A7 D*

you a - lone are my heart's de-sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

# GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

# KYRIE

## Kyrie

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy

Leader

In peace, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION



Lord. have mer cy,



Christ have mer - cy,



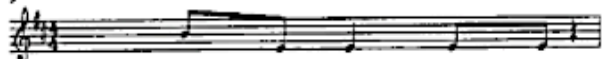
Lord have mer - cy.

2

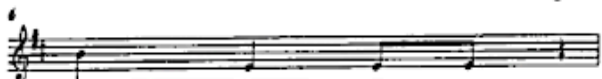
Leader

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

CONGREGATION



Lord\_ have mer- cy,



Christ have mer - cy,



Lord have mer - cy.

3

Leader

For peace in the world,  
for the health of God's church,  
and for all unity, let us pray  
to the Lord



CONGREGATION



Lord\_ have mer- cy,



Christ have mer - cy,



Lord have mer - cy.

4

Leader

For this holy house,  
and we who offer praise, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION



Lord\_ have mer cy,



Christ have mer - cy,



Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

Help, save, comfort and defend us,  
gracious Lord

CONGREGATION



Lord. have mer- cy,



Christ have mer - cy,



A - - - - - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal God, 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, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 55:1-9 (Jeff Dodge)

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

*A reading from Isaiah.*

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 63:1-8 (Jeff Dodge)

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**  
<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.  
<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**  
<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**  
<sup>7</sup>For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
<sup>8</sup>**My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (Jeff Dodge)

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures 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.*

*A reading from 1 Corinthians.*

<sup>1</sup>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, <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, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>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." <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>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**KIDS' MESSAGE** (Pastor Allen Dunn)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel*

**GOSPEL:** Luke 13:1-9 (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>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? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**SERMON** (Pastor Carolyn Brodt)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *For Those Tears I Died (Come to the Water)*

©Marsha J. Stevens

Words & Lyrics on Next Page



1. You said You'd come \_ and share all my sor - rows. \_\_\_\_\_ You said You'd be there for  
 (2.) good -ness so great \_ I can't un - der - stand, \_\_\_\_\_ and dear Lord, I know \_ that  
 3. Je - sus, I give You my heart and my soul, \_\_\_\_\_ I know that with - out God I'd

7 A $\flat$  B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  A $\flat$  B $\flat$  A $\flat$ /B $\flat$  E $\flat$



all my to - mor - rows. \_ I came so close \_ to send - ing You a - way. But just like You  
 all this was planned. \_\_\_\_\_ I know You're here now and al - ways will be, Your love loosed my  
 nev - er be whole. \_\_\_\_\_ Sav - ior, You o - pened all \_ the right doors and I thank You and

14 Cm A $\flat$  B $\flat$  A $\flat$ /B $\flat$  B $\flat$  E $\flat$  E $\flat$ <sup>7</sup>



prom - ised, You came here to \_ stay, \_\_\_\_\_ I just had to pray. \_\_\_\_\_ And Je - sus said,  
 chains \_ and in You I'm \_ free, \_\_\_\_\_ but Je - sus why me? \_\_\_\_\_  
 praise You from earth's hum - ble \_ shores, \_\_\_\_\_ Take me, I'm Yours. \_\_\_\_\_

**CHORUS**

22 A $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$



"Come to the wa - ter, stand by My \_ side; I know you are thirs - ty, you won't be de -

29 E $\flat$  E $\flat$ <sup>7</sup> A $\flat$  E $\flat$



-nied. \_\_\_\_\_ I felt ev - 'ry tear - drop when in dark - ness you cried \_\_\_\_\_ and I

37 B $\flat$  1, 2. E $\flat$  Fm/E $\flat$



strove to re - mind you that for those tears I died." \_\_\_\_\_

43 E $\flat$  3. E $\flat$  Fm/E $\flat$  E $\flat$



2. Your died." \_\_\_\_\_  
 (3.) \_\_\_\_\_

## CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

*Please be seated*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Jeff Dodge)

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the advocacy efforts of this congregation: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With (*names* and) all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*The congregation may offer additional prayer concerns either aloud or in the chat box.*

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## **OFFERING**

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness  
we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.  
Thank you so much for your continued support.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the words of the language of our hearts.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to God's table.  
There is a place for you and enough for all.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.  
Please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed Jesus,  
in this rich meal of grace,  
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.  
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope  
to a world in need.  
**Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.*

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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## **BLESSING**

You are children of God,  
anointed with the oil of gladness  
and strengthened for the journey.  
Almighty God,  
motherly, majestic, and mighty,  
✠ bless you this day and always.  
**Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

©Chris Tomlin



1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved .  
(2.) grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace .



a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now  
my fears re-lieved. How pre-cious did that grace .



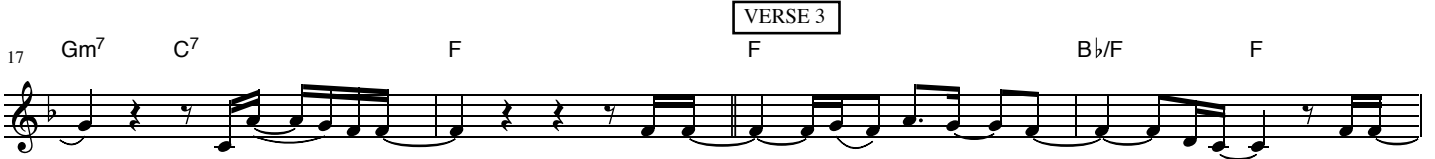
I'm found, was blind but now I see. 2. 'Twas  
ap-pear, the hour



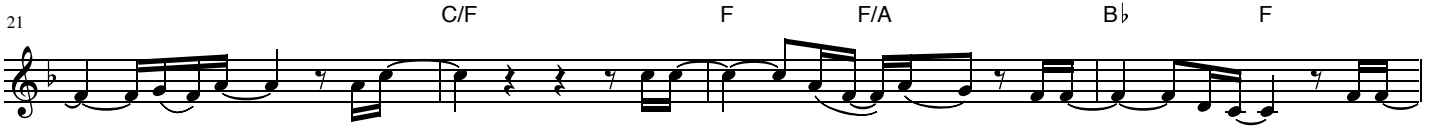
I first be-lieved. My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my



Sav-ior has ran-somed me. And like a flood His mer-cy rains, un-end-ing love, .



a-maz-ing grace. 3. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, His word .



my hope se-cures. He will my shield and por-tion be, as long .

Continues on next page

CHORUS

25 C/F F F/A B♭ F/A

as life endures. My chains gone. I've been set free, my God, my

29 B♭/D F/C F/A B♭ F/A

Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy rains, unending love,.

33 Gm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> 1. F F/A 2. F B♭/F

a-maz-ing grace. My chains are 4. The earth

VERSE 4

37 F B♭/F F C/F

shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun for bear to shine. But

41 F F/A B♭ F C/F F

God, who called me here be-low, will be for ever mine, will be

45 C/F F C/F F

for ever mine. You are for ever mine.

Please be seated.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel, the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.  
Thanks be to God and we will.