

Children’s Message

Bruce Bonander

Sermon

Interim Pastor John Dalen

Hymn of the Day:

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

ELW #335

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing Peace

Offering

Offering Hymn:

*As Rain from the Clouds*

ELW #508

Prayer

The 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 & Threefold Amen

Closing Hymn:

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

ELW #618

Dismissal:

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

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*Welcome! We are glad you are with us today!*

*“If you do not have a church home, you are welcome here. If you would like to become a member, contact any member or the church office.”*

Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025; 9:30 am

Third Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We’ve got a problem. It is called sin. And there is not a lot we can do about it. So let us pray to the One who can... Gracious God,

C: We confess our sins to you. Though we do not deserve it, we ask for your forgiveness. By your grace, let the blood of Jesus wash away the stain of sin and make us clean. Grant us a new start that we may live as you would want us to. Amen.

P: God has shown his grace to us by addressing the problem of sin. He sent Jesus, who took upon himself our sin and paid the price for us on the cross. He forgives us. You are forgiven. Live in God’s grace each day.

C: We will. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

*My Life Flows on in Endless Song*

ELW #763

Apostolic Greeting

Kyrie

(setting 3, p. 138)

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 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.

**Hymn of Praise:** *Glory to God* (setting 3, p. 139)

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

**C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**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.**

**Scripture Reading:** **Isaiah 55:1-9** Will Kruse

*(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.)*

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings 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> Now 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.

**Responsive Psalm Reading:** **Psalm 63:1-8**

L: 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.

**C: Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

L: For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

**C: So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

L: My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**C: When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

L: For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**C: My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

**Scripture Reading:** **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*(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.)*

I do not want you to be ignorant, 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 engage 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.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Change My Heart, O God* ELW #801

**Gospel Reading:** **Luke 13:1-9**

*(Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)*

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus 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 other people 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 man working the vineyard, ‘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.’ ”

*(Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)*