

MARCH 23, 2025 - THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Prelude - “*God Is Faithful And Just*” by Peterson (8:00 AM), or the Bell Choir plays “*Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross/What Wondrous Love Is This*” setting by McChesney (10:30 AM).

Stand

707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - ues still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; Public domain
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870; Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

Opening Dialog

- P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
- C** **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

- P** Jesus said: If anyone would come after Me,
- C** **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**

- P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.
- C** **He was bruised for our iniquities.**

- P** The chastisement that brought us peace was upon Him,
- C** **and with His stripes we are healed.**

- C** **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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **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. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–20

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85 Lord, You Have Lavished On Your Land

Psalm 85; CCLI # 6015400

1 LORD, you have lav-ished on your land a - maz-ing bless-ings
 2 LORD, bring us back to grace a - gain; blot out your an - ger
 3 To all his saints, the LORD speaks peace; his faith-ful love and
 4 Then love will meet with faith - ful - ness; God's right-eous-ness and

from your hand, re - stored us from cap - tiv - i - ty
 at our sin. Re - vive us, LORD, that we may raise
 care in - crease. He shares his grace with o - pen hand
 peace will kiss. As right - eous-ness smiles down from heaven,

and par - doned our in - iq - ui - ty. In grace you caused
 our thank - ful hymns and psalms of praise. In mer - cy, LORD,
 to spread his glo - ry through our land. Sal - va - tion from
 great har - vests to our land are given. With God all right -

your wrath to turn; you did not let your an - ger burn.
 your peo - ple bless with sav - ing love and faith - ful - ness.
 the LORD is near to all who trust the LORD in fear.
 eous - ness a - bides; his truth and jus - tice are our guides.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse for Lent

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.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

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

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear 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.**

Sit

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the
 o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no
 sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
 mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872; Public domain
 Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-67; Public domain

Sermon

Stand

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.

Sit

Anthem - The Bell Choir plays “*Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross/What Wondrous Love Is This*” setting by McChesney (8:00 AM), or “*God Is Faithful And Just*” by Peterson (10:30 AM).

Kneel

Prayer of the Church

Each petition ends:

P Lord, in Your mercy:
C Hear our prayer!

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

P Lord, 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.

Collect

A Let us pray.
Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so

that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

LSB 183

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.

Stand

850 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -

hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
days, For the liv - ing of these days.
goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969; Public domain
Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932; Public domain

Postlude – “Consecrate My Life To Thee, O Lord” tune *Hollingside*, setting by Mark Roberts.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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