

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 23, 2025

10:00 a.m.

— THE APPROACH TO GOD —

PRELUDE *Largo* Gaetano Valeri

WELCOME

VOTUM

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and praise the Lord!

Let us give thanks to our God.

Come and praise the Lord!

God is worthy of our praise.

God sits enthroned over all the Heavens.

The earth is God's footstool!

The Lord is faithful and trustworthy, mighty and righteous.

**The Lord is steadfast in love toward us,
ever merciful towards us.**

Great is the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

SALUTATION

*HYMN Great God, Your Love Has Called Us - #153
(verses 1-3)
Tune: RYBURN

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

(The congregation may exchange the Peace.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION adapted from Isaiah 55

Merciful God,

You invite us to come to your living water so that we may drink. You invite us to feast with you so that we may be satisfied, you tell us, "I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, for sure love for David." You call upon us to "call nations that do not know," so that they may run toward you and your love.

But we have neglected all this. We spend our money on that which is not bread and trinkets that do not satisfy. We have abandoned the call to protect and invite other peoples who seek after you.

Forgive us God, help us forsake these wicked ways and return to you so that you will have mercy on us. Help us again find our seats at your table which you prepare for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN

As the Deer - #503
Tune: AS THE DEER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor: Jesus Christ

Kids: the light of the world

— THE WORD OF GOD —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 13:1-9

p. 76

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: I Corinthians 10:1-13

p. 172

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Warnings, Repentance, and Knowing Our Pain*

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

— THE RESPONSE TO GOD —

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND

SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Christ, the Vine

Robert J. Powell

Christ the vine, and God, the gardener,
we the branches bearing fruit.

We can bring forth shoots of promise
when our lives in Christ take. Root.

Christ, the fruit from Jesse springing,
you fulfilled the prophet's trust.

And you pray that we, your body,
will fulfill your trust in us.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP: Our Children and Worship Program for children aged 4 through the 2nd grade continues today during the 10:00 service. Our Worship Center program takes place in Room 2. (Downstairs: take the Northwest staircase down to the lower level. The room is the first door to your right.)

EDUCATION HOUR, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Preschool-First Grade - Room 2; Second-Fifth Grade - Room 1;
6th-8th grades - Room 11; Senior High - Youth Room.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES, 11:15-12:15, meets in the chapel.

“Ancient Home and Family” led by Bob Van Voorst. Next week: “A Visit to Green Street” led by Dave Larsen.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Please remember in prayer those in the hospital and in care facilities.

Please remember to have someone notify the church office when you are in the hospital so you can receive spiritual care by the pastoral staff. Call 616-392-1459.

SYMPATHY is extended to Nancy Gebben, Kara, John, Penny, Lucy, and Owen Green, Katie and Dayne Jarvis and Josie and Stella Kotowski, Kristin, Duncan, and Lily Jackson, and Dan Gebben in the death of their husband, father, and grandfather, Dennis Gebben, on March 16.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Esther Vande Bunte has returned home from the hospital. Pray for: Nancy Gebben, Mary DeWitt, Ed Stielstra, Chris Walvoord. Appledorn-Donna Prins, Holland Cortland-Barb Piaget, Phyllis Brown; Maple Woods-Paula Wilson; Farmstead-Nancy Gebben. Missionaries - Wayne & Miho Jansen (Japan), Angel Lopez (Mexico).

DISHES NEEDED FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL: Please sign up by following the link in Third Church News or calling the church office, to bring either Soup, Salad, or Bread for our Maundy Thursday meal on Thursday, April 17, at 5:30 p.m. We are also in need of volunteers to help with set up, serving, and cleanup.

ORDER EASTER LILIES

April 6 is the last day to order lilies.

Place your order in the offering plate or bring to the church office.

No. of plants _____ \$8.25 each Total enclosed _____

In memory/honor of _____

Given by _____

Each person is responsible for picking up their own lily, taking it with them and/or delivering it to a shut-in.

THIS WEEK

Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. Kamerkoor
- 11:15 a.m. Education Hour
- 11:15 a.m. Carillon Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Middle School Girls' Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Special Education Ministry
- 6:30 p.m. JET Racial Equity Team

Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Men's Bible Study
- 8:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayers (Zoom)
- 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
- 5:30 p.m. LIFT Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. LIFT Classes
- 6:15 p.m. Middle School Youth Group

Thursday

- 8:00 a.m. Sunrise Saints

Friday

- 6:30 a.m. High School Bible Study

Saturday

- 9:30 a.m. Music Rehearsal

The cover art, by artist in residence Joel Schoon-Tanis, is an evolving painting intended to aid in telling the story of the church year and help us imagine the fullness of the story of God. It will change week to week until the last Sunday of the liturgical year 2024-2025. You may view the painting in the Gathering Place.