

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**March 20, 2022**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*EvLW # 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

**DIALOG**

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.**

Seek the Lord while he may be found. **Call upon him while he is near.**

Let the wicked abandon their ways, **and the unrighteous their thoughts.**

Let them turn to the Lord for mercy, **to our God, who is generous in forgiving.**

All you who are thirsty, come to the water. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk. **Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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 Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

### **Isaiah 55:1-9**

*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.*

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. 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. 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. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 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.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## **QUAERITE DOMINUM**

### **Song of Isaiah**

Seek the Lord while God may be found, call upon God when God draws near. Let the wicked abandon their ways and the evil ones their thoughts. Let them return to the Lord, and God will have compassion, and to our God, who will richly pardon.

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

For as the rain and snow fall from the heavens and return not again, but water the earth, bringing forth life and giving growth, seed for sowing and bread for eating, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty; but it will accomplish that which I have purposed and prosper in that for which I sent it.

**Glory 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.**

## PSALM 63:1-8 (The Message)

God - you're my God! I can't get enough of you! I've worked up such hunger and thirst for God, traveling across dry and weary deserts.

**So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in your strength and glory. In your generous love I am really living at last! My lips brim praises like fountains. I bless you every time I take a breath; my arms wave like banners of praise to you.**

I eat my fill of prime rib and gravy; I smack my lips. It's time to shout praises! If I'm sleepless at midnight, I spend the hours in grateful reflection. Because you've always stood up for me, I'm free to run and play. I hold on to you for dear life, and you hold me steady as a post.

## THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 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? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

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. 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?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*EvLW # 338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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 those who are in need in Ukraine and those who care for them around the world, 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 especially Lloyd, Josh, Jordon, Ferolyn, Elethia, Daryl, Carol and those we name in our hearts. Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

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

**For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. 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.**

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour and give us peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN****EvLW # 838 *Beautiful Saviour***

1. Beautiful Saviour, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Saviour, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honour, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

**POSTLUDE****READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	Mar 21	Jeremiah 11:1-17	Romans 2:1-11	Psalm 39
Tue	Mar 22	Ezekiel 17:1-10	Romans 2:12-16	Psalm 39
Wed	Mar 23	Numbers 13:17-27	Luke 13:18-21	Psalm 39
Thu	Mar 24	Joshua 4:1-13	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5	Psalm 32
Fri	Mar 25	Joshua 4:14-24	2 Corinthians 5:6-15	Psalm 32
Sat	Mar 26	Exodus 32:7-14	Luke 15:1-10	Psalm 32
Sun	Mar 27	Joshua 5:9-12	Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Psalm 32 (11)

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