

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
We Worship What We Know
March 8, 2026

AS WE GATHER

It often seems that life is a debate about the things we do not know. What is truth? What is right and wrong? Where is God? None of these questions are theoretical and all of them are answered in Christ, whom we know as Savior and Redeemer. The Law reveals the depth of our need and our sinful hearts. Christ makes known the love of the Father. Gathered in worship, we meet where Christ is—in His Word and Sacraments. Faith is not about what we do not know but about what we do know. Christ is our all. He fulfills the promise of the Old Testament and completes our redemption. We confess Him who came, who comes to us now through the means of grace, and who will come again to deliver us to the Father. To know Christ is to know everything.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

PRE-SERVICE SONGS

“O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer” Stiff

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts
My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness my refuge in the night

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died
You rose the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

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“At the Cross (I Know a Place)”

I know a place a wonderful place
Where accused and condemn'd find mercy and grace
Where the wrongs we have done and the wrongs done to us
Were nailed there with Him
There on the cross

Chorus: At the cross (at the cross)...He died for our sin
At the cross (at the cross)...He gave us life again

My hope is built upon nothing less
Than on Jesus Christ's blood and His righteousness
I dare not put my trust in sweet lies and deceit
But lean on His name to make me complete

Chorus

When I can't find the strength within
To sing praise for His love for I see my sin
I remember the cross and how grace ever strong
First loved from the cross and gave me a song
Repeat Chorus twice

Ending: I know a place a wonderful place

WELCOME

VERSE

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

"Amazing Love"

My Lord, what love is this,
That pays so dearly,
That I, the guilty one
May go free.

Chorus Amazing love, O what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me.
My debt He pays, and my death He dies,
That I might live,
That I might live.

And so they watched Him die,
Despised, rejected;
But oh, the blood He shed
Flowed for me!

Chorus

And now this love of Christ
Shall flow like rivers;
Come wash your guilt away,
Live again!

Chorus

Ending: That I might live.

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(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Blessed are those who dwell in your house ever singing your praise!

People: **Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose hearts are the highways to Zion.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 17:1–7* (Moses is commanded to strike the rock from which God will bring forth water.) All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 5:1–8* (We have peace with God through Jesus Christ.)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 4:5–30, 39–42* (Jesus shows Himself as the living water to a Samaritan woman at the well.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever

drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.”²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.”²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?”²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to him.³¹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN #588

“Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong.

**Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

Jesus loves me He who died. Heaven’s gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in. Refrain

SERMON HYMN #794 “The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven;
The Father’s own dear Son, whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith The highest heav’nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart And gives my spirit pow’r,
Help, comfort, and support In sorrow’s gloomy hour.

(Rise) The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the everliving,
To whom the heav’nly host Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

SERMON

“Worshipping in Spirit and Truth”

John 4:5-30, 39-42

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

HYMN DURING OFFERING #422 “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord of hosts, your ancient people worshiped you in Jerusalem, and in Christ you are now worshiped among all nations. Grant us faithful hearts to worship in spirit and truth.

People: Bless many more to come to know you in Your Word and Sacrament.

Pastor: O God, you led your ancient people by the hand of Moses and Aaron. Lead us through the wilderness of this world by the hand of faithful pastors. Bless Pastor Richard Schneider as he prayerfully considers our call to him to serve as our next senior pastor.

People: Refresh us all by the preaching of your Word, the grace and forgiveness of Christ and the living water flowing from the stricken side of our Lord.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we rejoice in the growth of the family of God. This weekend we especially rejoice as Frederick Raatz is baptized into Christ.

People: Bless Dale and Brittany to raise him in the faith, that together they may grow up in their salvation.

Pastor: Lord of all, you bestow your riches on all who call upon you. Bless parents with all wisdom as they teach their children your ways.

People: Bless all families to live together in peace and harmony as they live in grace and confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, preserve our nation, and prosper the cause of justice in this land. Guide and grant your wisdom to Donald, our president; the Congress of the United States; Tony, our governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants.

People: Grant us peace among the nations, and watch over those who protect us in the armed forces of our land.

Pastor: O great Physician of body and soul, by your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity especially Michael, Barb, Marlene, Katherine, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Dan, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Paula, Rhonda, Harland, June, Sharon, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill, Cathy and Sarah. Hold them all in your almighty hands and bring them consolation.

People: Heal them according to your gracious will, and give us all grace to accept and bear our crosses with faith in you, that we would always be prepared to depart this life in faith and come to your heavenly home.

Pastor: God of comfort and consolation, bless and comfort Holly Paavola and the rest of the family and friends of Rev. Dr. Dan Paavola, who passed on to glory this past week. Also bless the Weil family as they remember Eleanor on her birthday.

People: Grant us all hope beyond the tears of this life, looking forward to the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Pastor: Almighty Lord, to you all hearts are open and all sins are known. Strengthen our hearts by your grace, that we who daily sin much would make confession boldly of all our sins.

People: Then, bless us to joyfully receive your precious word of absolution.

Pastor: Merciful God, grant us safe haven at your altar, that we who bear the weight of this world and its sorrows would always long for your grace and mercy,

People: Inspire us always to sing your praise.

Pastor: These and whatever other things you would have us ask of you, O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying: praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTIONHYMNS**HYMN #430****“My Song Is Love Unknown”**

My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.

Oh, who am I That for my sake

My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none The longed for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath,
And for His death They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease And ‘gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life They slay.
Yet cheerful He To suff’ring goes
That He His foes From thence might free.

In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav’n was His home
But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

13 continued

Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days Could gladly spend!

“At the Cross God Demonstrates His Love For Us”

At the cross, God demonstrates His love for us
While we were sinners Jesus came to die
So by His blood we could be justified

At the cross God demonstrates that He is just
Unpunished sins could not be overlooked
So Jesus took them on Himself

Chorus: So be not ashamed of the cross
It brings salvation to all who believe
God is revealed, guilt is removed
Forgiveness can now be received
So be not ashamed of the cross
Tell of its power to all who will hear
Great is our joy glory is ours
From death we can now be set free

At the cross God demonstrates His endless grace
He chose to send His precious only Son
To punish Him for sins we’ve done

Chorus

Ending: At the cross.

HYMN #420**“Christ, the Life of All the Living”**

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;
Yes, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee. All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou ightiest own me And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou has suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore.
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, you have called your church to worship your Son in spirit and truth and fed and nourished us upon the Word of life and the body and blood of our Savior. By your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to Him who is the way, the truth, and the life, so that we may be partakers of His divine life and inherit the Kingdom promised for those who drink from the water of life; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #431 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand, And there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursed tree; I know my guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.

POSTLUDE

"You Are My King"

Preacher & Liturgist

Lector

Special Music

Pastor Harold Bender

Mark Richardson

Praise Team

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