

*The
Season
of
Lent*



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 2026

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THANK YOU for joining us in God's house today! We cordially ask that our Guests with us today sign one of the guestbooks located at either the front or back entryways, or fill out a "Let's Get Acquainted" card located in the hymnal pew rack and place it in the collection plate.

THANK OFFERING: Members of Trinity give their offering as an expression of love and thankfulness to the Lord and to help support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

RESTROOMS are located at the back of the upper level (the annex), and in the basement (down the back stairs of the sanctuary or annex). Handicap access is available, please ask an usher for assistance.

YOUNG FAMILIES / TODDLER BAGS – We are **GLAD YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHILDREN** to our worship service. Jesus said: *"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* We know that having little children in church can be a challenge, but **DO NOT WORRY** about it. Many of your fellow worshippers have been in your shoes and are just happy you brought your children with you. For your convenience, we have reserved the back rows of seating for parents with small children. These areas provide more flexibility for your family, as well as, easy access to move downstairs if necessary. A closed-circuit TV system allows families to continue participating in the service while downstairs. Pre-school **toddler bags** and **children's bulletins** are available for their enjoyment. Ask an usher for one to use during the service and please return the toddler bag afterwards.

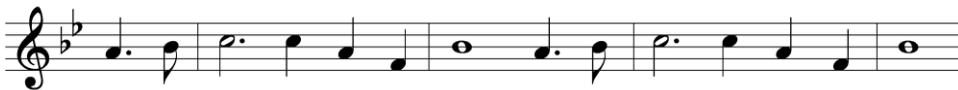
SERVICE OF THE WORD

839 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

CW 839



- 1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
- 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
- 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
- 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778, alt.

Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Text and tune: Public domain

PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

¹The entire Israelite community set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin as the LORD had commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²So the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why are you quarreling with me? Why are you testing the LORD?"

³But the people were thirsty for water there, so they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you ever bring us up out of Egypt to let us, our children, and our livestock die of thirst?"

⁴Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go in front of the people, and take the elders of Israel with you. Also take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Watch me. I will stand there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. You are to strike the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will drink." Moses did that in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He named the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure
That he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.
How high, how wide, how deep the Father's love for us.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. I know it is finished.
How pure, how strong, how deep the Father's love for us.

I will not boast of anything: no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.
How high, how wide. How deep the Father's love for us.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1–8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God.

³Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, ⁴and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. ⁵And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

⁶For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 4:13,14

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.”

Gospel

John 4:5–26

⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the piece of land Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there. Then Jesus, being tired from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone into town to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus 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"Sir," she said, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this living water? ¹²You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us this well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his animals."

¹³Jesus answered her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty ever again. Rather, the water I will give him will become in him a spring of water, bubbling up to eternal life."

¹⁵"Sir, give me this water," the woman said to him, "so I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus told her, "Go, call your husband, and come back here."

¹⁷"I have no husband," the woman answered.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say, 'I have no husband.' ¹⁸In fact, you have had five husbands, and the man you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true."

¹⁹"Sir," the woman replied, "I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews insist that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will not worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³But a time is coming and now is here when the real worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for those are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (the one called Christ). "When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶Jesus said to her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PLEASE BE SEATED

703 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

CW 703



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light.



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 Look un - to me; your morn shall rise and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt.

Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light,
⁹for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. ¹⁰Try to learn what
 is pleasing to the Lord, ¹¹and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose
 them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. ¹³But
 everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible.
¹⁴Therefore it is said, "Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Christ's Light Shines Brightly

PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PLEASE BE SEATED

529 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

CW 529



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
Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867
Text and tune: Public domain

PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICTION

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



PLEASE BE SEATED

923 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CW 923



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
 strong de - liv - 'rer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more, feed me till I want no more.
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–1791
 Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Officiant..... Pastor Ralph Stuebs
Organist/Choir DirectorSarah Hanke
Accompanist..... Laura Sala
Deacons..... Dave Frey and Gary Knowlton
Ushers..... Dale Finkbeiner and Mark Finkbeiner
Altar GuildJean Fiegel and Ann Latowski
Videographer Ann Latowski

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