

# **Sunday, March 3, 2024**

## **Third Sunday in Lent**

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Please rise.**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world would be saved through Him (John 3:16-17). Let us pray:

Almighty and most merciful God our heavenly Father,  
**we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us: but You, Oh Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all, O God, who confess their faults. Restore all who are penitent, according to Your promises declared unto mankind, in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and upright life, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to Him. Our Lord Jesus said, "Come unto Me, all you who are burdened and heavy laden, and I shall refresh you" (Matthew 11:28). For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). This is a true saying, and worthy of all mankind to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). If any sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one; and He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:1-2).

### **GATHERING HYMN:**

***God of Grace and God of Glory #705***

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## KYRIE

### *Lord Jesus, Think on Me #599*



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
I may the\_e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**Holy God, through Your Son You have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in Your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Please be seated.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD Your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before Me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject Me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and keep My commandments. <sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses His name. <sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. <sup>12</sup>Honor your father

and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 19 (Please read responsively by whole verse.)**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the

foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Please rise.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to St. John the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple He found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, He drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making My Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume Me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to Him, "What sign can You show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will You raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of His body. <sup>22</sup>After He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Please be seated.**

**SERMON**

**PASTOR SCOTT DENNIS**

**Please rise.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross #803*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**WORDS ON SCREEN**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Accompany us...Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We may greet one another with a wave, handshake or hug in the name of the Lord. God's peace is more than an absence of conflict. Our prayer for one another is that we live together in the wholeness of God's love and grace.*

**Please be seated.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*If you would like to support our ministry through automatic, electronic giving, please visit our website (see QR code on last page) or download the Vanco mobile app to your phone, or you can mail your offering directly to the church. When we give an offering, we are saying thanks to God for all of His wonderful gifts.*

**OFFERING**

**Please rise.**

**OFFERTORY**



What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?

I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing  
and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the  
pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him Who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

For as often as we eat of this bread...until He comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

.... now and forever.

**Amen.**

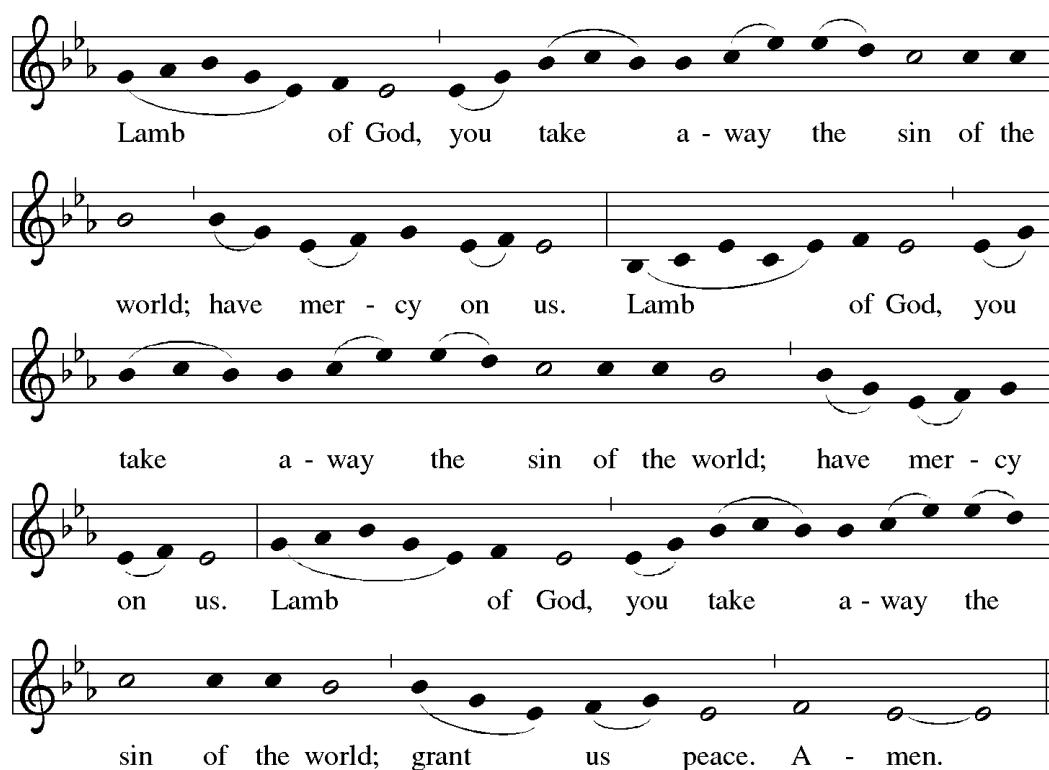
## LORD'S PRAYER

## WORDS ON SCREEN

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**Please be seated.**

## COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

## COMMUNION

*As Christians in the Lutheran tradition we believe, teach, and confess that in the bread and the wine we do truly and really receive the body and blood of Christ. All Christians baptized in the name of the Triune God are warmly welcome and invited to come forward to receive communion. If you would like to stay in your place you are welcome to do so. You may also come forward for a baptismal blessing, in which case you may fold your hands in front of you. Come, for all things are now ready.*

**Please rise.**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has  
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which  
you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:  
A light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the  
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the  
Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,  
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**Almighty God, You gave Your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive Him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to His; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

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.



© A - men

## SENDING HYMN:

*Canticle of the Turning #723*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister – The Reverend Dr. Scott Dennis, Ph.D.

Assisting Minister – Gary Bauer

Acolytes/Psalm Reader – Jody Arnold

AV Operator – Cheri McKee

Greeters/Ushers – Sharon Matty & Liz Baker

Lector – Carole Bauer

Organist – Nancy Sweetland

**There will be a Special Congregation Meeting on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> immediately following the service to discuss the excavation project & the creation of a Joint Ministry Council. Please plan to attend.**

### **Upcoming Events (see newsletter for more details)**

Wednesdays from Feb 21<sup>st</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup>-the church will be open from 11 AM–1 PM for silent meditation and reflection. Lenten devotions will be available and a member of the Worship Team and Council will be present during this time. Please plan to attend at least once to help prepare yourself to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

Mar 17-11:00 AM Combined Worship & Potato Bake at Forks-Zion. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

July 21-11:00 AM Combined Worship Service & Picnic at Gilpin/Leechburg Park.

# **Prayer List**

## **Special Prayers:**

Victims of Worldwide Conflicts & Natural Disasters

## **Members:**

Alice Puhlman, Dana Lehman, Idella Steen, Eleanor Kakuk, Joyce Lyons, Jan Matthews, Camille Hyland, Cheryl Ferrier, Nancy Randolph, Jeff Durand, Gary Bauer, Pam Lehman, Shirley Ross, Mary Vassar, Art Sweetland

## **Friends of Bethesda:**

Nancy, Glenn, Santino, Cody, Linda, Harry, Dave, Janet, Melanie, John, Donna, Bill, Ed, Erica, Andrew, Heidi, Mason, Kali, Jim, Tom, Jennifer, Joe, Virginia, Wayne, Andrea, Theresa, JoAnne, Joyce, Judy, Ben, James

## **Grieving Family and Friends of:**

Donna Sanner

<https://www.bethesdaelc3084.org/home> From sundaysandseasons.com.

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