

## RE-GIFTING

God gives us gifts so that, like the fig tree in Jesus' parable (Luke 13:6-9), we might bear fruit. These gifts take many forms. Some are dramatic: the cancer goes into remission, the addiction is acknowledged and faced. Sometimes God's gifts are more common: gifts of friends and family, home and work. All people are blessed by God with talents and abilities. All gifts from God share this in common: God's gifts are never an end, they are always a beginning.

Healed, you discover new opportunities to experience life, and new opportunities to serve in the name of Jesus. Sobriety is a blessing to the individual, but it can also bring healing to families and allow people to discover a calling to help others on their journey towards sobriety.

Financial blessings from God allow people to provide for their families, to purchase food, clothing, and shelter. Through those same blessings you experience the joy of generosity. The varied gifts from God bless you in many ways, but if God's gifts are received and never touch another life, something is missing.

Jesus is a gift sent from God. One of the many gifts he brings is the gift of forgiveness. Forgiven by Jesus we forgive others. It is a gift we are called to re-gift, for forgiveness comes to us as a beginning, leading to countless more gifts. Re-gifting the ugly sweater you were given last Christmas might not be appreciated, but re-gifting God's gifts is always a grace-filled act. Consider all that God has blessed you with, and pray for guidance. May you re-gift forgiveness and mercy, may you re-gift joy and compassion, may you re-gift your talents and your treasures. By re-gifting, you bear fruit to the glory of God.



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## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 7, 2010  
8:00 am & 9:30 am

### PRELUDE

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

Robert Hobby

### WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Merciful God,

**G** **we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and are not worthy to be called your children.**

**Have mercy on us and turn us from our sinful ways.**

**Bring us back to you as those**

**who once were dead but now have life,**

**through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

☐ Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☑ Amen.

### HYMN 807

*“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

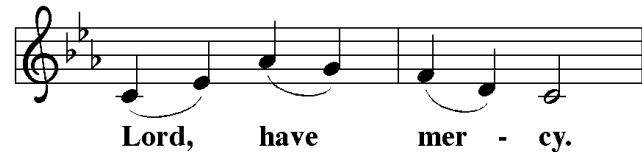
### THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

☐ 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.

### THE KYRIE

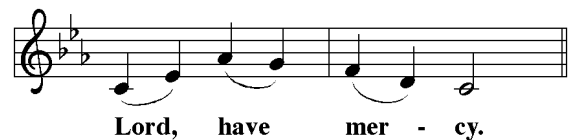
☐ In peace let us pray to the Lord.



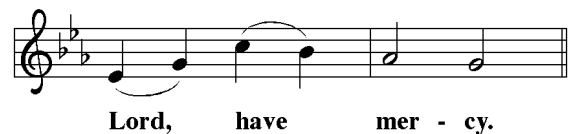
☐ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



### HYMN 776

*“What God Ordains Is Good Indeed”*

### POSTLUDE

*“Cwm Rhondda”*  
*(God of Grace and God of Glory)*

John A. Behnke

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Liturgically, during the season of Lent, things are very different. Our worship takes on a more somber tone. There is no **Hymn of Praise** nor **Post-Communion Canticle**. There is a **Lenten Acclamation** prior to the reading of the Holy Gospel.

The **Paschal Candle**, normally lighted for Baptisms and Funerals, will not be lighted until Easter morning.

And, of course, the word **“Alleluia!”** will not be heard until we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

“Sonata in g Minor (Grave)”

Georg F. Handel

String Bass: John Casey

We sing Hymns **623** and **666**

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and His Real Presence in the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord’s Supper.

## THE BLESSING

- ☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- ☑ **Amen.**

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- ☐ Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☑ **Amen.**

## THE BENEDICTION

- ☐ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- ☑ **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

- ☐ Help, save comfort and defend us gracious Lord.



## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
- ☐ Eternal Lord, 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, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

## THE 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 the Lord 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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as

the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

**PSALM 63:1-8** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>**My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

**THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

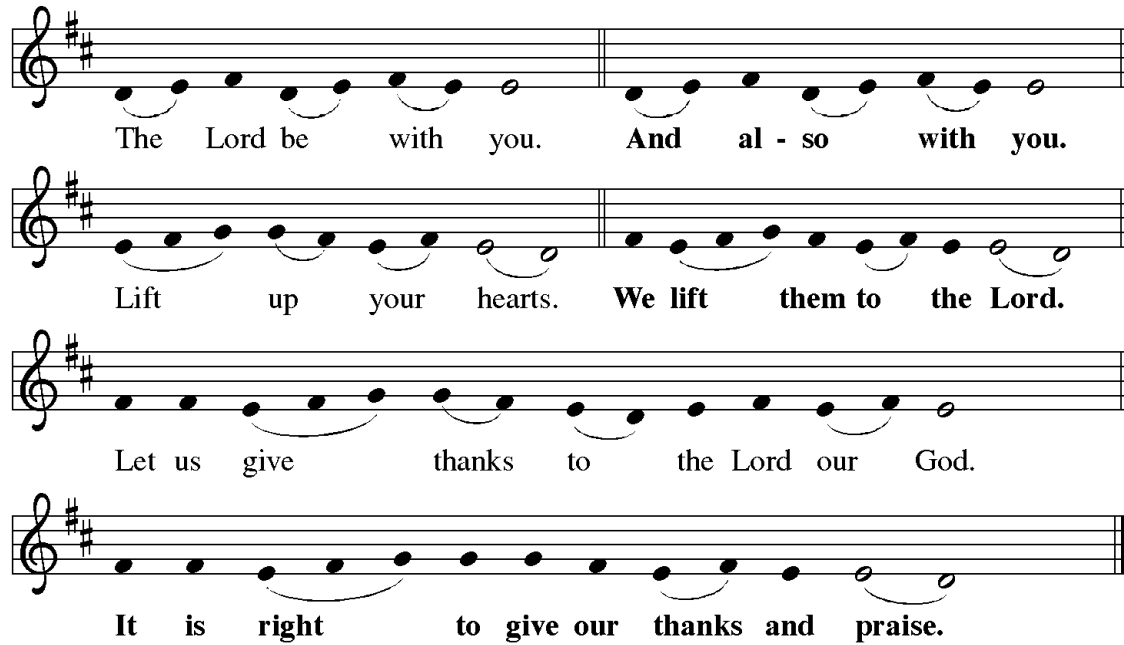
**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

☑ **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 GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

## THE PREFACE FOR LENT

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call us, your people, to cleanse our hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter celebration, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we will come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

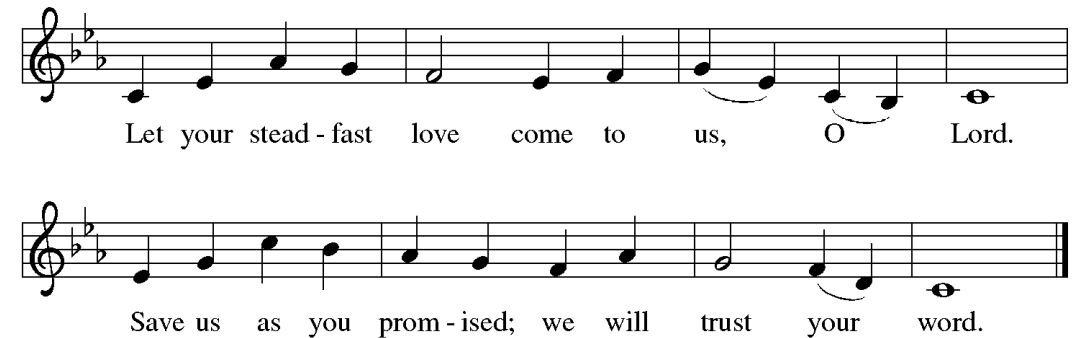
## THE SANCTUS

down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

☐ This is the Word of the Lord.      ☑ Thanks be to God!

## THE LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 13:1-9*

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>Jesus asked them, "Do you think that

because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>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? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>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?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

☐ The Gospel of the Lord. ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**ANTHEM OF PRAISE** "Sonata in g Minor (Allegro)" Georg F. Handel  
String Bass: John Casey

**THE SERMON** Pastor Lon Kvanli

**HYMN 733** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**THE 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, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE** (Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer**)

**WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE**

**THANKOFFERING**

**ORGAN OFFERTORY** "Elegy" Franklin Ritter

**THE OFFERTORY**

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

**THE OFFERING PRAYER**

☐ Holy God, gracious and merciful:  
☑ **you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**