

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

March 20th, 2022

8:30 am Service

Third Sunday in Lent

Introduction to the Day: The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Call to Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

try me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.

Call to Confession

Restore in Us, O God

Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love;
re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sin re - move.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple quarter and eighth notes, with a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. b. 1944. Copyright © 1989 Hope Publ. Co. Music: W. Daman, The Psalmes of David, 1579, alt.
Tune: Southwell SM. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Those who think they are standing are warned to take heed, lest they fall.

For the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

In times of temptation, we forget what you have done for us. You give us everything we need, yet we often remain unsatisfied. You show us the way we are to follow, yet we often continue on the path of self-indulgence and self-centeredness. Forgive us, we pray. We ask for your direction, your patience, your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, who, in spite of his temptations, was faithful to your saving Word.

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Gathering Song

#327 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

Greeting

We gather as we live in the name of the Father, our Creator; the Son, our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

Amen.

Litany for the 3rd Sunday in Lent

Like a gardener, Lord, you are patient with our progress.

Help us, to grow in the way that you want us to.

Like a gardener you tend and nourish us.

Help us, to be replenished by the word in your Scriptures.

Like a gardener you rejoice when we bear fruit.

Help us, to bear the fruit that is pleasing to you.

Help us, O Lord,

to keep gaining strength from you.

Prayer of the Day

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

Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

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.

Therefore, I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

when I remember you upon my bed and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

Second Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

page 189 Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us

Gospel Reading (Sermon Text)

Luke 10:25-37

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

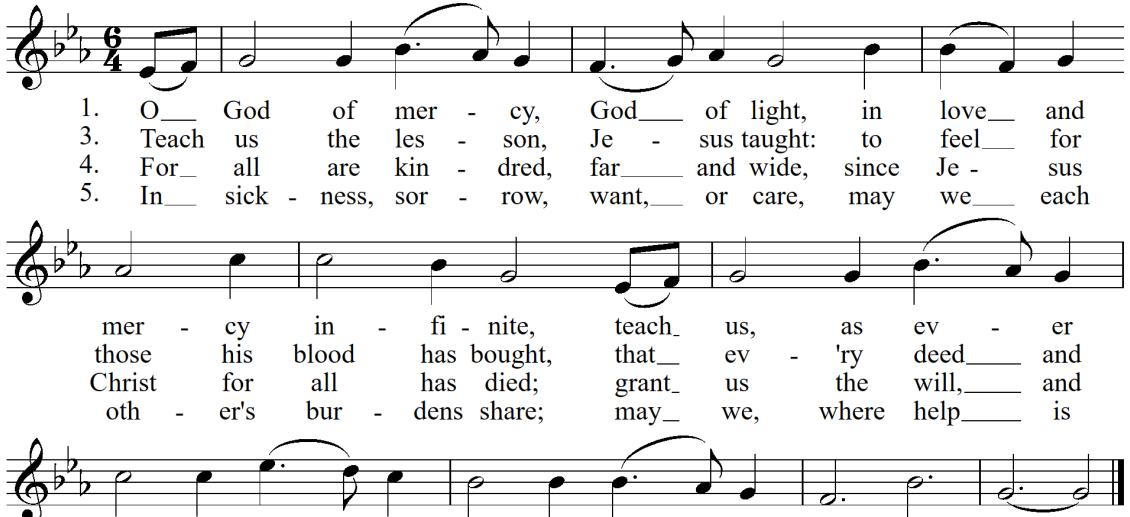
Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

O God of Mercy, God of Light (Stanzas 1, 3-5)

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)



1. O__ God of mer - cy, God__ of light, in love__ and
 3. Teach us the les - son, Je - sus taught: to feel__ for
 4. For__ all are kin - dred, far__ and wide, since Je - sus
 5. In__ sick - ness, sor - row, want,__ or care, may we__ each

mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach_ us, as ev - er
 those his blood has bought, that_ ev - 'ry deed__ and
 Christ for all has died; grant_ us the will,__ and
 oth - er's bur - dens share; may_ we, where help__ is

in your sight,__ to live our lives__ in you, in you.__
 word and thought_ may work a work__ for you, for you.__
 grace pro - vide,__ to love them all__ in you, in you.__
 need - ed there__ give help as though_ to you, to you.__

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt. Copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868. Tune: Woodworth, LM.

Profession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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.

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.

Call to Prayer

Hear Our Prayer


Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole: peace to all people,
hope for each soul. God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Text & Music: Paul Andress, b. 1956. Text & Music Copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

...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.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

Thanksgiving

Musical Offering

Shall We Gather at the River arr. by Michael Helman
– The EmBELLishments

Please stand as you are able.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Seed Must Be Buried

Seed must be bur - ied ere it can take root, dy - ing to rise and
 bear a - bun-dant fruit. You died, O Christ, that fruit-ful we might
 live; what you have giv - en, Lord, to you we give.

The musical score is written on three staves in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

Text: Arden Mead. Copyright © 1999 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission. Music: William H. Monk. Tune: Eventide 10 10 10 10.

Offertory Prayer

Dear God, you have planted us and tended to us. No amount of good can repay what you have freely offered. Accept from us these gifts, this fruit, our offering to you. Use it to nourish the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

Sending

Blessing

The blessing of God's eternal love, the courage to follow the way of the cross, and the guidance of the Spirit in the desert places of our world, be among us. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us both now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

How Big Are Your Arms, O God (Stanzas 1, 3 & 5)

1. How big are Your arms, O God?_ How wide is Your wel - come here?_

3. Your love, it knows no bounds,_ no gen-der, no race, no creed.

5. We are Your arms, O God;_ yes, we are Your wel - come wide._

— How far will Your grace reach out to em - brace the stran-ger both far and near?
 — Much strong-er than hate, Your love is the gate; this world and Your king - dom meet.
 — We go in Your name; Your love, we pro - claim. Let all find a place in - side!

Your_ love reach-es be - yond our walls, how vast, how wide, how deep,_ how
 high! Your_ love em - pow - ers, com - pels, and calls. Like You, may we love

all._____ all._____ Like You, may we love all._____

1. _____ Final Time _____

Text & Music: Carol Meier, Eagle Lake Lutheran Church, 1650 60th Avenue NE, Willmar, MN. 56201.

Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

Dismissal

Remember you are marked with the cross of Christ; go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude