

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

March 20th, 2022

11:00 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.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. b. 1944. Copyright © 1989 Hope Publ. Co. Music: W. Daman, The Psalms of David, 1579, alt.
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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

p. 189 Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us

Gospel (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.

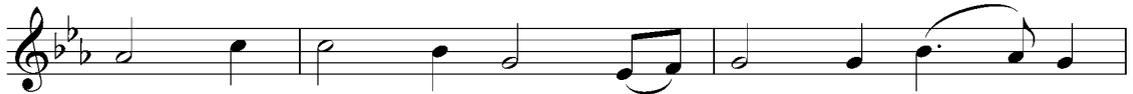
Hymn of the Day

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.__

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.

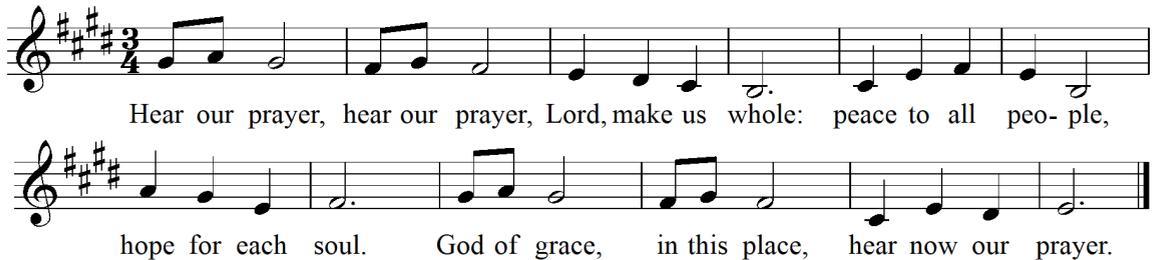
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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.

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...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.

Meal

Musical Offering

Come to the Water by John Foley, arr. Jack Schrader
Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory

When Grains of Wheat Fall

1. When grains of wheat fall in the ground, New life with -
 2. With Christ we die; with Christ we live; To Christ our
 in their death is found. When grapes are crushed, there
 ran - somed lives we give. With grate - ful hearts, our
 flows new wine. So from Christ's death flow gifts di - vine.
 gifts in hand, Be - fore the cross of Christ we stand.

Tune: Erhalt Uns, Herr LM. Music: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543. Text: Arden Mead. Copyright: © 1999 Creative Communications. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

First Communion

We celebrate with Sebastian Steinberg, Jacob Livingston, Carter and Ella Mathis their First Communion today.

Today this community of faith rejoices because Sunday is the day Christ arose from the dead. Once again Jesus calls us to join him for a meal. We celebrate with those who today, join in sharing of the Lord's Meal—Holy Communion.

We welcome you to the Table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We thank God for your lives. We pray that you will find joy and strength in this meal. Be with us, O God, as we receive these gifts.

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Please be seated.

Lamb of God

1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
 2. Lamb of God, you call us to the way of your cross: have
 3. Lamb of God, you are the way of Jus - tice and peace: have
 4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love: have

mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: Traditional liturgical text. Music: Marty Haugen, *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Copyright: © 1990 GIA Publ. Inc. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Communion Anthem

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether [ELW 470]

- Senior Choir

Communion Hymn

#468 Around You, O Lord Jesus

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his love and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, our Gardener, you have nourished us that we might grow. You have loosened our roots from the bondage of sin. Now send your Spirit upon us. Help us to grow, that we might bear good fruit for you. We bless you now and evermore.

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 welcome here?
 3. Your love, it knows no bounds, no gender, no race, no creed.
 5. We are Your arms, O God; yes, we are Your welcome wide.

How far will Your grace reach out to embrace the stranger both far and near?
 — Much stronger than hate, Your love is the gate; this world and Your kingdom meet.
 — We go in Your name; Your love, we proclaim. Let all find a place inside!

Your love reaches beyond our walls, how vast, how wide, how deep, how
 high! Your love empowers, compels, and calls. Like You, may we love
 all. Like You, may we love all.

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

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Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.

Postlude