

# **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Saturday, March 19, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**4101 Washington Street NE**

**Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

**+ CONNECT +**

## **INVOCATION:**

**L:** Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY AND CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

**L:** Though the Readings for the Third Sunday in Lent bring warnings to those who refuse the Spirit and remain impenitent, they also promise that God will work in us the healthful Spirit of His grace, forgive our sins, and equip us to bear the good fruits of His kingdom in our lives. From the prophet Ezekiel, we learn that God finds no pleasure in judging the wicked but rejoices in their repentance and faith. From 1 Corinthians, we are warned by Paul against the pride that goes before the fall and assured that in Christ, temptation cannot overcome us. In the Gospel, Jesus is confronted with a tragedy from the news and points the hearers to their own repentance and faith, that they may bear the good fruit of His Kingdom. Let's come before God in confession. *(Time of silence for personal confession)*

**L:** We hurt, Lord.

**C:** **We hurt in our bodies and our souls. We hurt in our relationships with others. How we must try your patience! We don't want to be like this - we want to feel the warmth of your love, the freedom of your Spirit, the joy of serving you. Forgive us for our selfishness and stupidity. Heal us. For we ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.**

## **SONG OF CONFESSION: "Jesus Sinners Will Receive"**

**Jesus sinners will receive; May they all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners will receive.**

**I, a sinner, come to You With a penitent confession;  
Savior, mercy show to me Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners will receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim. Here our ills have perfect healing;  
We with humble hearts believe Jesus sinners will receive.**

**Come, O sinners, one and all, Come, accept his invitation;  
Come, obey his gracious call, Come and take his free salvation!  
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners will receive.**

## **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**L:** Let us pray.

**C:** **Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being, and give us so many second chances in life. May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you from our sinful ways. Mold**

**us as your people in new and powerful ways, that we may be true and faithful followers of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.**

**GREETING TIME**

**+ NURTURE +**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-20**

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved. Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel? Therefore, son of man, say to your people, ‘If someone who is righteous disobeys, that person’s former righteousness will count for nothing. And if someone who is wicked repents, that person’s former wickedness will not bring condemnation. The righteous person who sins will not be allowed to live even though they were formerly righteous.’ If I tell a righteous person that they will surely live, but then they trust in their righteousness and do evil, none of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered; they will die for the evil they have done. And if I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ but they then turn away from their sin and do what is just and right—if they give back what they took in pledge for a loan, return what they have stolen, follow the decrees that give life, and do no evil—that person will surely live; they will not die. None of the sins that person has committed will be remembered against them. They have done what is just and right; they will surely live. Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ But it is their way that is not just. If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and does evil, they will die for it. And if a wicked person turns away from their wickedness and does what is just and right, they will live by doing so. Yet you Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ But I will judge each of you according to your own ways.”

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE LESSON: I Corinthians 10:1-13**

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 13.

**C:** **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now

I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' "Sir," the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.  
 C: Praise to You, O Christ!

**SONG OF THE DAY: "Be Still and Know That I Am God"**



1. Be still and know that I am God.  
 2. I am the Lord that heal - eth thee.  
 3. My bound - less mer - cy shall en - dure.  
 4. I love you with a stead - fast love.



Be still and know that I am God.  
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Be still, and know that I am God.  
 I am the Lord that heal - eth thee.  
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*("Be Still and Know", text for st. 3-4 by Tom Fettke, arr. copyright 1986, 1992  
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**MESSAGE:** "Not All Questions Have Answers" – Pastor Bill Hugo

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed**

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

+ EMPOWER +

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

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

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.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

# PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

## CLOSING SONG: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Verses 1, 2, 4



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where  
2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where  
4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where  
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where  
is in par-don - ing that we are par-doned, in



there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, And  
there is dark - ness, on - ly light, And  
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.  
dy - ing that we're born to e-ter - nal life.

Verse 3



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek So much to be con -



soled as to con - sole. To be un-der-stood as to un-der -



stand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.

*("Prayer of St. Francis" by Sebastian Temple, copyright 1967 by OCP,  
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Lay Minister: Larry Betzold