

# Welcome to Worship

Lent 3 ~ March 8, 2026

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING SONG: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"**

*ELW 324*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Glory to you, O God:  
you speak a word of power,  
and Creation springs forth!

**We praise you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God:  
your Spirit hovers over the earth,  
and order is birthed from chaos!

**We bless you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God:  
The sun rules our days,  
The moon and stars brighten our nights,  
Bringing your light to our darkness!

**We exalt you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God:  
May blessing, glory, and praise be yours!

**Now and forever, Amen!**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *ELW Setting 10, page 205***

♪ Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

♪ Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

## **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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **CHILDRENS MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 95**

- <sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing <sup>1</sup> to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of <sup>1</sup> our salvation.
- <sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God's presence <sup>1</sup> with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the <sup>1</sup> Lord with psalms.**
- <sup>3</sup> For you, Lord, <sup>1</sup> are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- <sup>1</sup>bove all gods.
- <sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns <sup>1</sup> of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are <sup>1</sup> also yours.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and  
the sheep | of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!

<sup>8</sup> **"Harden | not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors | tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

<sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my  
ways.'**

<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore | in my anger,  
'They shall never come | to my rest.'"

## **SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *ELW Setting 10, page 205***

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### **GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to John the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on

this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

**SERMON SONG: “Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”**

**ELW 777**

**SERMON**

## **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.**

**OFFERING with special music**      *Jordyn Ziegler & Keith Haugen*

### **OFFERTORY:**

*We give thee but thine own, Whatev'r that gift may be.  
All that we have is thine alone, A trust O Lord from thee.*

**PRAYERS:** Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought (especially), and bring relief to places damaged by floods (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER:**

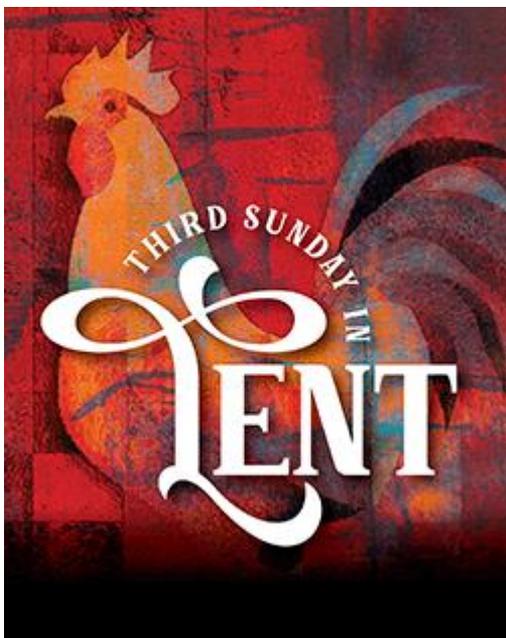
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION:**

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look upon you with favor and give you his peace.

**SENDING SONG: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”** ELW 807

**DISMISSAL:** Go in peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**



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