



Sunday, March 23, 2025
The Third Sunday in Lent

Service Theme
ALWAYS PRESENT, ALWAYS PATIENT

The heavenly Father is always present in the lives of his children. He sees every sorrow we endure. He also sees every sin that we commit, even if it's only in our thoughts. He is always present. Yet, he is also always patient. God does not snap at us the second we turn from him. He gives us time to see the error of our ways. He assures us that the door back to him remains always open. By giving us room to share our struggles and shortcomings, he works in us the very repentance he desires and saves us from the judgement that would otherwise be ours.

406 In the Hour of Trial

CW 406



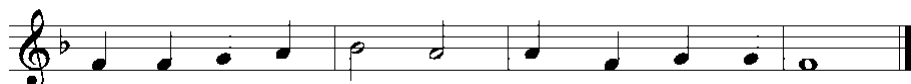
1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me
2 With for - bid - den plea - sures should this vain world charm
3 Should your mer - cy send me sor - row, toil, and woe,
4 When my life is end - ing, though in grief or pain,



lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.
or its tempt - ing trea - sures spread to work me harm,
or should pain at - tend me on my path be - low,
when my bod - y chang - es back to dust a - gain,



When you see me wa - ver, with a look re - call,
bring to my re - mem - brance sad Geth - sem - a - ne
grant that I may nev - er fail your cross to view;
on your truth re - ly - ing, through that mor - tal strife,



nor for fear or fa - vor ev - er let me fall.
or, in dark - er sem - blance, cross-crowned Cal - va - ry.
grant that I may ev - er cast my care on you.
Je - sus, take me, dy - ing, to e - ter - nal life.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

The Service

Setting Three (page 188)

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 189

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and

praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men. A - men.

Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 3:1–15

The Lord reveals his presence to Moses as flames within a bush—fire that warms and gives light yet does not consume.

¹Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

²The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. ³So he said, “I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up.”

⁴When the LORD saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, “Moses! Moses!”

Moses said, “I am here.”

⁵The LORD said, “Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶He then said, “I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, “I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹Now indeed, the Israelites’ cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹²So he said, “I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain.”

¹³But Moses said to God, “If I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what should I say to them?”

¹⁴So God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He also said, “You will say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.”

¹⁵God also told Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

85A LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer

Psalms 85A

Refrain



Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;
he promises peace to his / people.
Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,
that his glory may dwell / in our land.
Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Text: Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

God revealed his presence among the nation of Israel. Instead of his presence leading them to repentant faith, with a sense of false security the Israelites set their hearts on evil.

¹For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, ²and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly.” ⁸And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. ⁹Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents.

¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come.

¹²So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Peter 3:9

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Luke 13:1–9

God is always patient, but our time of grace does come to an end at the moment of death. Since that can come at unexpected times, Jesus teaches that the time to repent is right now.

¹At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²He answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? ³I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse sinners than all the people living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too.”

⁶He told them this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?’ ⁸But the gardener replied to him, ‘Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. ⁹If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

712 Delay Not! Delay Not

CW 712



1 De - lay not! De - lay not! O sin - ner, draw near!
 2 De - lay not! De - lay not, O sin - ner, to come,
 3 De - lay not! De - lay not! The Spir - it of grace,
 4 De - lay not! De - lay not! Why long - er a - buse



The wa - ters of life are now flow - ing for you.
 for mer - cy still lin - gers and calls you to - day.
 long grieved and re - sist - ed, may take his sad flight
 the love and com - pas - sion of Je - sus, your God?



No price is de - mand - ed, the Sav - ior is here;
 Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
 and leave you in dark - ness to fin - ish your race,
 A foun - tain is o - pened—how can you re - fuse?



re - demp - tion is pur - chased, God's prom - ise is true.
 its mes - sage, un - heed - ed, will soon pass a - way.
 to sink in the gloom of e - ter - ni - ty's night.
 Come, wash and be cleansed in his par - don - ing blood.

God Looks for the Fruits of Repentance.

- 1) He is right to expect this fruit.
- 2) He warns against fruitlessness.
- 3) He does all he can to encourage our fruitfulness.

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From there 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering

833 I Run to Christ

CW 833



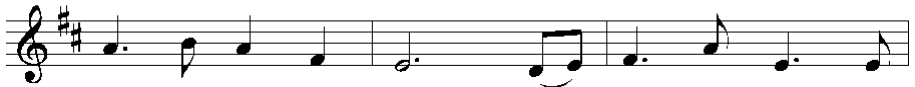
1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref - uge
2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re -
3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -



sure. "Be - lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and
freshed. "Come un - to me," he calls thro' strife; fa - tigue gives
cape. "De - liv - er me," I cry to him; temp - ta - tion



wounds se - cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and
way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and
yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and



find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he
find a might - y arm. "The dev - il flees," the
find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he



gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.
Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.
pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971

Tune: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

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Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

923 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CW 923



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, be thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more, feed me till I want no more.
shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–1791
Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932
Text and tune: Public domain

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (23) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
12:00 pm Voter's Meeting
- Tu (25) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- We (26) 11:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service
- Th (27) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (28) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Romans 9-16)
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
6:00 pm Friday Fellowship
- Sa (29) 11:00 pm Communicating Christ (Youth)
- Su (30) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Circuit Gathering (Toronto)
- Tu (1) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- We (2) 11:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service
- Th (3) 10:30 am Longfield Manor
6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (4) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Romans 9-16)
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Sa (5) 11:00 pm Communicating Christ (Youth)
- Su (6) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:30 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**

Announcements

Church Cleaners

March 30 – Simon // April 6 – Matthew

Midweek Lenten Worship: Reflections on Repentance

Using David's great penitential Psalm 51 as our guide, this year's Midweek series of Lenten reflections explores the depths of our sinful depravity, the brokenness of our relationship with God, our dire need for rescue, and the good news of forgiveness, cleansing, and rejoicing in our restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life through Jesus our Saviour. Please join us every Wednesday evening until Palm Sunday at 7 p.m. as the WELS Ottawa pastors take turns leading us worship as the reflection on repentance.

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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