The Third Sunday in Lent

**Divine Worship Service**

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oberlin, Ohio

March 12, 2023

**Prelude:**

**Welcome:**

**Opening Hymn**  “Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus”

*(LSB # 531, st. 1-2,4*)

**1.** Hail, Thou once despised Jesus! Hail, Thou Galilean King!  
 Thou didst suffer to release us; Thou didst free salvation bring.  
 Hail, Thou universal Savior, Bearer of our sin and shame!  
 By Thy merit we find favor; Life is given through Thy name.

**2.** Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, All our sins on Thee were laid;  
 By almighty love anointed, Thou hast full atonement made.  
 All Thy people are forgiven Through the virtue of Thy blood;  
 Opened is the gate of heaven, Reconciled are we with God.

**4.** Worship, honor, pow’r, and blessing Thou art worthy to receive;

Highest praises, without creasing, Right it is for us to give.

Help, ye bright angelic spirits, All your noblest anthems raise;

Help to sing our Savior’s merits, Help to chant Immanuel’s praise!

**Invocation:**

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son+ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution:**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for personal self-examination.)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Psalm:** *Psalm 116:1-7*

P: I love the LORD,

**C: Because he has heard  my voice and my pleas for mercy.**P:Because He inclined His ear to me,

**C: Therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**P: The snares of death encompassed me;  
**C: The pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;**  **I suffered distress and anguish.**P: Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
**C:  “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

P: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;

**C: Our God is merciful.**P: The LORD preserves the simple;  
**C: When** **I was brought low, He saved me.**  
P: Return, O my soul, to your rest;  
**C:**  **For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.**

**Kyrie:** *(spoken) (LSB p. 152-153)*

P: In peace let us prayer to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Salutation and Collect:** *(sung) (LSB p. 156)*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. [The Collect of the Day is prayed.]

**C: Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading:**  Isaiah 55:6-9

*6 “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the*

*wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:**  *(Hebrews 12:2)*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

the founder and perfector of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Epistle Reading:**  Philippians 1:19-30

*19**for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this*

*will turn out for my deliverance, 20as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not*

*be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my*

*body, whether by life or by death. 21**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22**If I am*

*to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot*

*tell. 23**I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for*

*that is far better. 24But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your*

*account. 25**Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for*

*your progress and joy in the faith, 26so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in*

*Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.*

*27**Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I*

*come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit,*

*with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28**and not frightened in*

*anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your*

*salvation, and that from God. 29For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ*

*you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30engaged in the*

*same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Lenten Verse:** *(stand and sing) (LSB p. 157)*

Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 20:1-16

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20th Chapter. *(LSB p. 157)*

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

*1“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23792a)*] a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3**And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4**and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ 5So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6**And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ 7They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ 8And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ 9And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12**saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ 13But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15**Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?****1****6So the last will be first, and the first last.”*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed:**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,**

**begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light,**

**very God of very God, begotten, not made,**

**being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;**

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and**

**I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Children’s Message:**

**Sermon Hymn** “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”  *(LSB # 827; © Stephen Starke, 2001)*

**1.** Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting; Who will bear the sheaves away?"  
Loud and long the Master calls us, Rich reward He offers free;  
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?

**2.** Some take up His task in morning, To their Lord responding soon;

Some are called in heat of midday, Others late in afternoon;

Even as the sun is setting, Some are sent into the fields,

There to gather in the bounty That God’s Word so richly yields.

**3.** For as rain and snow from heaven Water seeds in dusty soil,

Causing them to bud and flower, Giving bread to those who toil;

So the Lord sends forth His promises. Words of life and joy and peace –

Never void to Him returning, Bearing fruit with great increase.

**4.** Hearken to the Lord whose coming Marks the time when grace shall end,

When with His angelic reapers He in glory shall descend.

Soon the night, the final harvest; Soon the time for work shall cease.

Then the souls His grace has garnered, Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

**Sermon:** *“Workin’ for the Man”*

**Offertory:** “We Give Thee But Thine Own” *(LSB # 781, st. 1-2*)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

**Offering:** *(Our tithes and offerings are brought forward from the Narthex*

*and placed before the LORD on His altar.)*

**Prayer of the Church:**

*(Each petition of the prayers concludes with the response:)*

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**Preface:** *(sung) (LSB p. 160)*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary…

…Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**Sanctus:** *(sung) (LSB p. 161)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

P: Almighty God, You have said that whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup…

P: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**Words of Institution:**

P: *Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My +body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”*

*In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my +blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

**Pax Domini:** *(sung)**(LSB p. 163)*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

**Agnus Dei:**  *(sung) (LSB p. 163)*

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Distribution of Holy Communion:**

**First Communion Hymn:** “Just as I am, without one plea” (*LSB #570*)

1. Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me

And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

1. Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,

To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

1. Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,

Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

1. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,

Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

1. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;

Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

1. Just as I am; thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down;

Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**Second Communion** “By Grace I’m Saved” *(LSB # 566, st. 1-3*)

**1.** By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
No! Then this word must true remain; By grace you too will life obtain.

**2.** By grace! None dare lay claim to merit; Our works and conduct have no worth.  
God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;  
His death did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

**3.** By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

**4.** By grace! This ground of faith is certain; So long as God is true, it stands.  
What saints have penned by inspiration, What in His Word our God commands,  
Our faith in what our God has done Depends on grace--grace through His Son.

**5.** By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried,  
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.  
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

**6.** By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;  
For though I know my heart's condition,I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

**Third Communion Hymn:** “Salvation unto Us Has Come” *(LSB # 555, st. 1-2, 6-7*)

**1.** Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;  
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;  
He is our one Redeemer.

**2.** What God did in His Law demand And none to Him could render  
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.  
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires,  
And lost is our condition.

**3.** Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.  
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead, Your death is now my life indeed,  
For You have paid my ransom.

**4.** Let me not doubt, but truly see Your Word cannot be broken:  
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!" No falsehood have You spoken.  
Baptized into Your precious name, My faith cannot be put to shame,  
And I shall never perish.

**Post-Communion Canticle:** “Feed Thy Children” *(LSB # 774)*

Feed Thy children, God most holy: Comfort sinners poor and lowly.

O Thou Bread of Life from Heaven, Bless the food Thou here hast given!

As these gifts the body nourish, May our souls in graces flourish

Till with saints in heav’nly splendor At Thy feast due thanks we render.

**Post-Communion Collect:** *(sung)* *(LSB p. 166)*

P: Let us pray….

…one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Benediction:** *(sung)* *(LSB p. 166)*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you

and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give+ you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (*LSB # 643; © World Library Publications, 1964*)

**1.** Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,

The people of God from His dwelling take leave.

The Supper is ended. O now be extended

The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,

Shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us

To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

**2.** With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,

The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,

Embracing His children of each tribe and race.

With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving

Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

**Postlude:**

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Preacher: Josh Moldenhauer

Organist: Oziah Wales

Order of Worship: Divine Service Setting 1 from LSB (CPH, 2006) p. 151-166



*“So the last will be first, and the first last.”*

Matthew 20:16