

LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025 + 9:30 am

Parable of the fig tree

Learn Live and Share God's Word

Christ is the gardener who saves the trees from destruction

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. 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!

Lent 2025 (Year of Luke) - Reconciliation and Compassion

We journey to the place of God's mercy

March 9	<i>Jesus tempted in the wilderness)</i>
March 16	<i>Jesus desires to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers chicks</i>
March 23	<i>Jesus speaks of repentance with the fig tree parable</i>
March 30	<i>Jesus speaks of forgiveness with the prodigal parable</i>
April 6	<i>Mary anoints Jesus foreshadowing his burial</i>

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

GATHERING MUSIC

"Sinfonia from Cantata 156"

J.S. Bach

At the sound of the bell please stand if you are able and face the worship leaders.

GATHERING HYMN

(hymn) ELW 522

“As We Gather at Your Table”

- 1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**
- 2 Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**
- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944; © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly is invited to stand or kneel; and all may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us turn to God and confess our sin
in the assurance of God's abiding love.

silence is kept for reflection

P Merciful God,

C You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of Jesus. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sin is forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the Lord

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 the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;

and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 63:1-8 (ICEL)

O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (63:1)

A God, my God, you I crave; my soul thirsts for you,
my body aches for you like a dry and weary land.

**C Let me gaze on you in your temple:
a vision of strength and glory.**

A Your love is better than life, my speech is full of praise.

I give you a lifetime of worship, my hands raised in your name.

C I feast at a rich table, my lips sing of your glory.

A On my bed I lie awake, your memory fills the night.

C You have been my help; I rejoice beneath your wings.

A Yes, I cling to you, your right hand holds me fast.

**C Give praise to the Father Almighty;
to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts;
both now and forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as
Christians*

*Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus
Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living
sign of God's faithfulness.*

Paul writes to the church at Corinth:

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

... The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, singing: (ELW setting 3, p. 142)

C 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

Luke 13:1-9

Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²Jesus asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-- do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

silence is kept for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

(hymn) **ELW 583**

stanzas 1, 3, 4

Refrain

**Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain**

**3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. Refrain**

**4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adap.

APOSTLES' CREED

**A Living together in trust and hope,
we proclaim the faith that we share.**

**C I PUT MY TRUST IN in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I PUT MY TRUST IN 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 PUT MY TRUST IN 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

Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.

each petition concludes:

...hear us O God.

C Your mercy is great.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

PEACE

P In Jesus Christ God has made peace with us.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

“Ubi Caritas”

C. Browning

Presentation of the Gifts

Offertory Procession

(ELW hymn #186)

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

**C Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures in our midst,
opening your heart to the world.
Bless us and these your gifts,
and inspire us to follow you
in sharing these treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The assisting minister pours out the wine.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

P ...and join their unending hymn:

(*setting 3, p. 144*)

C 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.

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1789)

P As Christ teaches, we 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.**

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Communion

"Lamb of God"

(setting 3; page 146)

C **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.**

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

Generous and merciful one, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified and risen one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

We are sent to be God's hands in the world

BLESSING

P Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.
Keep these words in your heart as you walk the way of Lent.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(hymn) ACS 1000

“God’s Work, Our Hands”

- 1 God’s work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt’ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God’s future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 3 God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God’s love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,**

sharing the good news of your gospel.

**4 God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954; © 2019 ELCA, admin. Augsburg Fortress

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

DISMISSAL

A Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Take My Life"

W. D. Pharris

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Karen Moeller, *assisting minister*

Lory Dubbels, *reader*

Jenny Focht, *flute*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Sanctuary Choir

Myrna Flatland, Anna Matthes, *technology desk*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Dave Samletzka, Fred Chinquist, *ushers*

Al Erickson, *bus ministry*

Mt. Carmel Youth, *coffee hosts*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given by the Nordeen family
in memory of Tom Nordeen.

If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

If you wish to sponsor the webcast sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.

This service is being streamed live on the internet.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

11am Wednesday Lunches at Culver's

*includes responsive prayer for Lent and brief scripted reflections on the passion
"Reflections from the Edge of Faith"*

Wednesday Suppers in Lent (including Ash Wed)

5:30 – 6:30 arrive any time; serving until 6:30 pm

Hosted by ministry teams

Midweek Lenten offerings designated for five of our hunger ministries

6:45 Wednesday evenings

Holden evening prayer

includes brief scripted passion "Reflections from the Edge of Faith"

7 pm April 17 Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion worship service

Celebration of the pre-confirmation daily prayer milestone this year

*Includes commemorating the first Lord's Supper, corporate and individual
absolution/forgiveness, and foot or hand washing (optional).*

7 pm April 18 Good Friday

Good Friday Prayer around the Cross worship service

*Includes a contemplative reading of the passion from John, prayer for the world,
and prayer around the cross with optional participation in votive candle lighting*

WELCOME



Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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