

United Lutheran Church

Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 12, 2023



**Come, let us sing for joy to
the LORD; let us shout aloud
to the Rock of our salvation.**

- Psalm 95:1 -

WORSHIP PREPARATION PRAYER

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

To all in attendance today:

- Please fill out the attendance form found as an insert in the Weekly Witness and place it in the woven basket in the Narthex as you leave.
- You may take your used bulletin and Weekly Witness with you or place them in the wire basket in the Narthex.
- If you are unable to come to the altar, please indicate your desire for communion to an usher.

◆ = Congregation Stands P = Pastor A = Assistant C = Congregation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ GATHERED IN GRATITUDE

C Baptized into the Body of Jesus Christ and Nourished by His Supper, we are United in Gratitude, Living Everywhere the Love of the Triune God.

P You have turned our mourning into dancing; you have taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy,

**C so that our souls may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

Psalm 30:11-12

◆ GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS

P The Lord is with you.

C And also with you.

◆ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

(silence for self-examination)

P Loving God,

C we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of † the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

◆ GATHERING HYMN

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

ELW #335

◆ GREETING

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

C And also with you.

◆ KYRIE

Cantor

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor

For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord

Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor

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

Cantor

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor

For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

Cantor

let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor

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

Congregation

A - men.

◆ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Merciful God,

C 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.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From 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. ²The 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?" ³But 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?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The 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. ⁶I 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. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:1-11

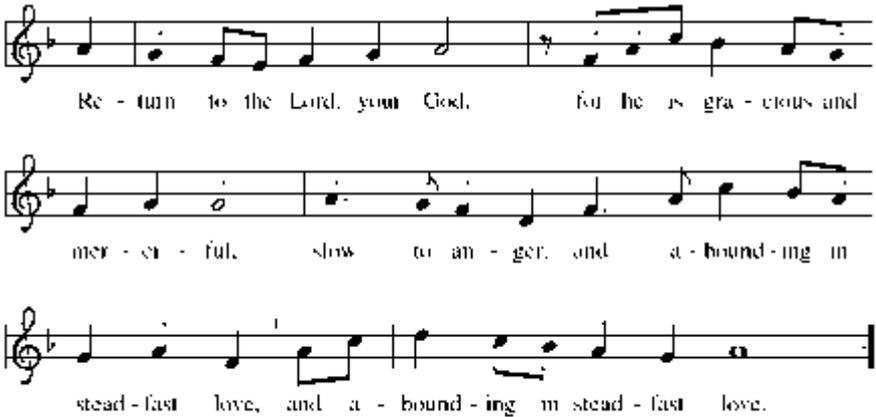
¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces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

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

¹⁰For 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. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

◆ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

◆ GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

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

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

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹The 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.)¹⁰Jesus 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."¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but 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.” ¹⁵The 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.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But 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. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷Just 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?” ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

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

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Neal J. Anthony

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As the Deer Runs to the River”

ELW #331

◆ **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

◆ **PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

*Each petition will end with the pastor saying, "Lord, in your mercy" . . .
The congregation responds with . . . "Hear our prayer."*

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

◆ **OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of Abundance,

C surrounded by the logic of scarcity, we live by your Promise of Abundance. It is by that Promise that we give of ourselves. In our giving may we be the witness for which our community thirsts, namely, the living evidence that you are a God of Abundance. Amen.

◆ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Lord be with you. *Congregation* And al - so with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts. *Congregation* We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, . . . and join their unending hymn:

◆ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Hu - ly, hu - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho san na in the high est.

◆ **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

◆ **LORD'S 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus Christ died and was raised for sinners. We qualify.

At United we practice Open Communion.

Those who will receive forgiveness of sins are welcome to the Table.

The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light colored liquid is grape juice.

For those who need an alternative to wheat flour wafers, gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world: grant us peace. A-men.

◆ **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthens you and keeps you in his grace.

C **Amen**

◆ **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Crucified Lord,

C **you have known us according to our deepest selves, yet you have called us to your table. We have betrayed and denied you in our daily lives, yet you have desired to feed us. You know our wavering commitments, yet you have desired to feed and equip us for your ministry. May the table fellowship to which you have invited us today be the model for how we treat others this coming week. Amen**

◆ **BENEDICTION**

P Now receive the Benediction.

(Congregation: Face your neighbor.)

**C The Lord blesses you and keeps you;
The Lord's face shines upon you and is gracious to you;
The Lord looks upon you with favor and gives you peace.**

◆ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord by taking care of one another.

C Thanks be to God.

SENDING PRAYER

Almighty God, grant that your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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St. Ignatius of Loyola Sayings and Quotes

Undertake nothing
without consulting God.

United Lutheran Church

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Our Staff

Lead Pastor— Rev. Dr. Neal J. Anthony

Church Office Secretary—Karen Daffer

Secretary for Pastoral Care—Marie Sandell

Bookkeeper—Jo Hill

Financial Secretary—Denice Hoops

Worship Leaders for March 12	
Leadership Position	Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Organist	Denice Hoops
Cantor	Lisa Von Busch
Acolyte	Chloe Von Busch
Lector	Sally Mertens
Usher	Debbie Thomas
Greeter	Ernie Thomas
Communion Assistants	Jack & Dianne Keech
Parking Lot Monitor	Roger Jaques

Office Hours

Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon

Guidelines for Wedding, Baptism, and Funeral Services at United

Before setting a date or make plans for a wedding, baptism, or funeral at United, please contact the church office to clear a date. This is to ensure the availability of the pastor and facility. Baptisms and weddings are not done during the church season of Lent. Additionally, weddings are not held during Holy Week or busy church seasons.