

**Home Liturgy - March 15, 2020**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**

If you want to and have one: light a candle and place it where everyone can see it.

*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. (Matthew 18:20)*

Today, we would snub out the third candle during worship. With Lent reaching the halfway point, we realize afresh how counter-culture our faith in Jesus Christ is. Lent, along with personal sin, is all but ignored around us, and we live as people with one foot on earth and one foot in the Kingdom of God.

Extinguishing the light of the six candles week by week reminds us how often coming before our God to confess and be forgiven gives us strength to live faithful lives day by day. The light of Christ shines into our darkness and dispels it, that we might be renewed for the Kingdom work God sets before us.

Prayer: Forgiving God, like parents who sacrifice for their children, you have taken on our deepest burdens and needs. As we navigate our relationships with each other, and with you, move us to stay steadfast in love, as you have been faithful and steadfast with us. Hear our prayer in the name of Christ, amen.

Hymn 485     *To God Be the Glory*

<https://youtu.be/2CeBoSQsBR0> (this contains an extra verse not in our hymn book)

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins to God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, have mercy on me. With your unfailing love and great compassion erase my sins. Wash away all my iniquity. I know my mistakes and my sin is always before me. I have sinned against you and done bad things in your sight. Your verdict is right and justified. I was born in sin, yet you desired faithfulness even as I developed. You taught me wisdom in that secret place. Wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Please don't leave me or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore in me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit that I may continue on the right path

**SILENT PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION**

In your mercy, LORD, hear our prayers. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God planned to free us from our sin since the beginning of time, as the prophet Isaiah says:  
“This is the kind of fasting God has chosen: To loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke.”

By the mercy of God, through the work of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free from our sin. Amen.

Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/QUBxpypSblw>

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

What can you do this week in the name of our Lord?

Doxology — good to watch ...

<https://youtu.be/sEjc2esWNas>

Anthem *Wondrous Love*

<https://youtu.be/DsVnvN3EVxY>

Not our choir, but somewhat “good” 😊

Scripture Readings

Micah 7: 18-20

18 Who is a God like you,  
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression  
of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever  
but delight to show mercy.

19 You will again have compassion on us;  
you will tread our sins underfoot  
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

20 You will be faithful to Jacob,  
and show love to Abraham,  
as you pledged on oath to our ancestors  
in days long ago.

Ephesians 4:17-32

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its

deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 "In your anger do not sin"[d]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 347 *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

<https://youtu.be/DV-jWtP1MPc>

I was only able to find a version with organ, no voices.

Prayers of the People

Gracious heavenly Father, we are in the midst of a serious pandemic. People are scared, people are sick, and the most vulnerable are dying. The virus has spread throughout the world. We ask for your mercy on us and others. Help us to stay safe and be mindful of what we need to do for self-care and to protect others. Help each of us to know your peace. Help us to balance our need to be vigilant with our need to remember we cannot control everything.

We are thankful for the emergency service workers, those in public service, and most especially for health-care workers. Please be with the doctors, nurses, therapists, technicians, and all other healthcare workers. We ask your continued blessings on our firefighters, our police, and our government workers. We pray they stay healthy and are able to provide care and support to those who become ill and their families.

We pray for businesses and the people who work and rely on these businesses. There are long lines and some shortages. Not everyone has resources or an emergency supply. Not everyone can take off from work to care for family. We have no idea how long this will last. Remind us to help the most vulnerable. We ask that you open our eyes and hearts to those at risk during this time of uncertainty. We pray especially for those who may experience hunger because resources are limited or who are alone. Please be with our families, our friends, and our neighbors close by and far away as they stay at home, make do, and rely on one another to get through this troubling time.

We are thankful for our families, our friends, for one another to lean on in hard times. We are thankful for you, O Lord, our protector and redeemer. In this season of Lent let us remember that we have so very much to be thankful for as we hunker down to reduce the effects of the virus. Help us to look forward to celebrating the resurrection of your son.

All these things we pray in His name ...

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 394                      *There Is A Balm In Gilead*

<https://youtu.be/OMs3M1jdIRM>