

Liturgy
The Third Sunday in Lent
Year C

GATHERING

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
*Why 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 let your soul delight itself in abundance.*

Incline 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.
*Seek the LORD while He may be found;
call upon Him while He is near.*

**O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You.
I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.**

So we have looked upon You in the sanctuary,
beholding Your power and Your glory.

**Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips shall praise You.**

So I will bless You as long as I live:

I will lift up my hands in Your name.

— from Isaiah 55:1-3, 6; Psalm 63:1-4

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord,
The Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

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Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863.
Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

*LECTIONARY for the third Sunday in
Lent, Year C:*

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Cor. 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

We are nearly at the halfway point of our Lenten journey. On this third Sunday of Lent, the Church traditionally attends to the theme of God's call to repentance. As we step through this season in year C, with its focus on holy and faithful living in our walk with Christ on the way to the cross, on this day we are called to reject and repent of the places in us that are ugly and destructive—the sinful places. As these readings reflect, it's a part of our earnestly seeking for God with a whole heart; of hungering and thirsting for His presence and for only His best in our lives; of inclining our ears and coming to Him so that we may live; of longing to know His thoughts and His ways, which are so much higher than our own, even when we do not understand all that may be happening around us. It is a vital and integral part of being increasingly conformed to Christ's image and filled with His heart and mind.

Ellen's setting of Praise to the Lord, the Almighty is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and scored for keyboard (suitable for piano or organ, also). Please see the commentary on this hymn setting for reflections on the text, performance suggestions, and creative ideas for using the hymn verses throughout a worship service. In this liturgy, as we often do, we sing the first three verses as the opening hymn, and conclude the service with the final verse sung as a strong declaration of faith as we are sent out into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/praise-lord-almighty>

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

As the Deer

As the deer panteth for the water,
So my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

Chorus

You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in these words from the epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans:

We know that God causes all things
to work together for good
to those who love God,
who are called according to His purpose.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

*He who did not spare His own Son,
but delivered Him over for us all,
how will He not also with Him
graciously give us all things?*

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**But in all these things
we overwhelmingly conquer
through Him who loved us.
For I am convinced
that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other created thing,
shall be able to separate us
from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

— from Romans 8:28-39

The text of this scripturally-based Profession of Faith is not part of today's lectionary. It is chosen for its special resonance with the Gospel reading in Luke 13.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Seek the LORD while He may be found;
call upon Him while He is near.
*Let 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.
*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are My ways higher than your ways
and My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

– Isaiah 55:6-9

[Silence]

**God of compassion, we call upon You,
for You have promised to hear and deliver.
We humbly confess that we have sinned
against You and against others,
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
Forgive us and heal us, O Lord,
by Your grace and lovingkindness,
for Your sake and for Your glory. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God’s assurance of His love and deliverance:
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and great in mercy.
He is righteous in all His ways,
and faithful in all He does.
*The LORD is near to all who call on Him,
to all who call on Him in truth.
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He will hear their cry and save them.
The LORD keeps all who love Him.*
**My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.**

– Psalm 145:8. 17-21

This simple, traditional prayer of confession and repentance is adapted from the Book of Common Prayer (Morning Prayer, rite two).

This setting of Agnus Dei is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also included in the collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. You may hear Agnus Dei in the Audio Media Studio.

Here’s the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei>

TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion.

Meditation and reflection:

Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise You.
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises You with joyful lips
when I think of You on my bed,
and meditate on You in the watches of the night.

For You have been my help,
and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

– Psalm 63:3, 5-8

My Lips Will Praise You

My lips will praise You, for You are holy.
My voice will ever rise before Your throne.
My heart will love You, for You are lovely,
And You have called me to become Your own.

I am Your own,
And I will worship You alone.
I am Your own, I am Your child.
I am Your own,
And I will worship at Your throne.
I am Your own, And I will love You.

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THE WORD

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Cor. 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again!

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**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 debts
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever. Amen**

Jesus. Only Jesus

Who has the pow'r to raise the dead?
Who can save us from our sin?
He is our hope, our righteousness:
Jesus, only Jesus.

Who can make the blind to see?
Who holds the keys that set us free?
He paid it all to bring us peace:
Jesus, only Jesus.

Chorus

Holy King, Almighty Lord;
Saints and angels all adore.
I join with them and bow before
Jesus, only Jesus.

Who can command the highest praise?
Who has the name above all names?
You stand alone; I stand amazed,
Jesus, only Jesus.

Chorus

You will command the highest praise,
Yours is the name above all names.
You stand alone; I stand amazed,
Jesus, only Jesus.

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sixsteps songs | Sweater Weather Music | Thankyou Music | Worship Together Music |
worshiptogether.com songs } All Essential Music | Songs From Exit 71.
Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, Kristian Stanfill, Christy Nockels, Nathan Nockels, Tony Wood.

To the Only God

To the only God who is able to keep us,
Able to keep us from falling.
To the only God be all glory and honor,
Majesty and power,
For all ages now and forevermore.

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worshiptogether.com songs. Chris Tomlin.

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verse 4)

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

Let the Amen – sound from His people again;
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

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Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, as you go forth from this place,
do so remembering that God alone is your strength and shield,
He who is always near. In His eternal faithfulness
He saves, sustains, enables, and encourages you. **Amen.**
Now may the Lord direct your hearts
into God's love and Christ's perseverance,
as you walk in Christ's own footsteps,
taking on His likeness,
in this journey of Lent.
**We remember, and we go with grateful hearts
into the world to love and serve the Lord.
Amen. Thanks be to God.**

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“If we always see God in our minds, and always remember Him, everything appears tolerable to us. We can bear everything easily and be above it all. For when we see or remember a loved one, our spirits are aroused and our thoughts elevated. We bear everything easily while delighting in the recollection. So then when we call to mind and remember the One who actively loved us, would we feel pain, or dread any terrifying, fearful or dangerous thing? Would we be cowardly? Never. For things appear difficult to us only when we don't remember God as we should, when we don't always carry Him in our thoughts. When we don't, He can rightly say, ‘Thou hast forgotten Me, I also will forget thee.’ Then the evil would be doubled: we forget Him and He us. . . . For the effect of God's memory is great. But so is the effect of our remembering Him. The result is that we choose good things and accomplish them. . . . Therefore, if we want to obtain good things, let us seek the things of God. For those who seek the things of this world will fail, but those who prefer the things of God will obtain them.”

– Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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You will have noticed that our usual closing of the benediction, “Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!” is missing in this season. That is because it’s customary during Lent to refrain from saying “Alleluia!” In a sense, we fast from this exuberant expression of praise, which makes it all the more meaningful and glorious when we declare on Resurrection Sunday, “Christ is risen, Alleluia!”