

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT: *Oculi*

THE LORD'S DAY, 07 March, Anno Domini 2021

Eleven o'clock in the morning | The Sanctuary

✠ denotes the People stand, in body or in spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in bold.



SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Heavenly Father, who hast made us for Thine own self, wherefore our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of Thy servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold Thine eternal glory in the face of Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen. -Book of Common Prayer

GREETING

The Rev^d Dr. Mark Conforti, Senior Pastor

Please see our [website](#) or [newsletter](#) for more information about upcoming ministry opportunities.

PRELUDE

His Mercy Is More

Mr. Joshua Starnes, Director of Music

arr. Ken Barker

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more!

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more!

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore:
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more!

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.
His blood was the payment; His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more!

Words and Music: Matt Papa and Matt Boswell.
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✠ CALL to WORSHIP (responsively)

from I Corinthians 1.18,25

The message of the cross sounds foolish to the world;
But to us it is the power of God!
We proclaim the scandal of Christ crucified.
**The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,
and the weakness of God is stronger than our strength.**



1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done! So loved He the
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, to ev - 'ry be -
 3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and great our re -



world that He gave us His Son, who yiel - ded His life an a -
 liev - er the pro - mise of God; the vil - est of - fen - der who
 joi - cing through Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er, and



tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 great - er will be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see!



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord!



Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther through



Je - sus the Son, and give Him the glo - ry great things He hath done!



To God be the glo - ry, to God be the glo - ry,



to God be the glo - ry for the things He has done.



With His blood He has saved me; with His power He has raised me;



to God be the glo - ry for the things He has done!

✠ CALL to LAMENT and REPENTANCE

The Rev^d Stacey Lundy, Associate Pastor

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak.

In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace.

We confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

Let us pray:

(A brief moment of silence follows for private confession.)

✠ CORPORATE PRAYER of CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in Your will,

and walk in Your ways,

to the glory of Your Holy Name. *Amen.*

✠ ASSURANCE of GOD'S PARDON *(responsively)*

Hear the Good News:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

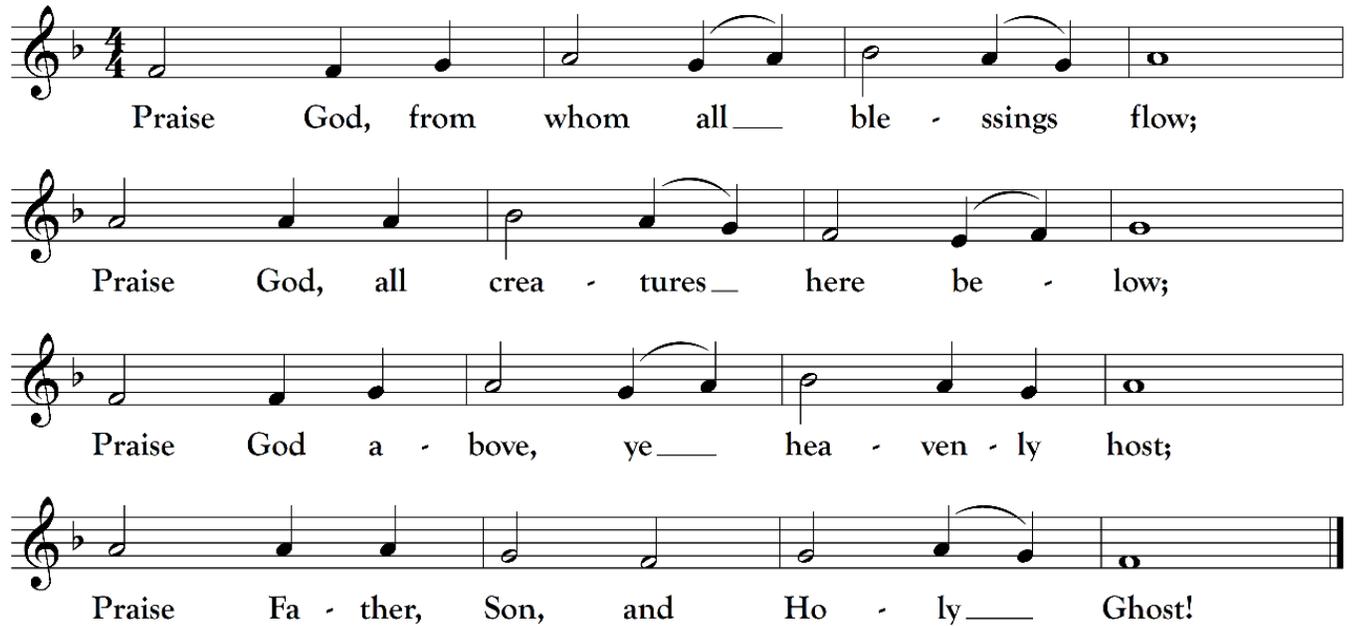
this proves God's love toward us.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Glory to God! *Amen.*

✠ DOXOLOGY (in unison)

HAMBURG



Praise God, from whom all__ ble - ssings flow;

Praise God, all crea - tures__ here be - low;

Praise God a - bove, ye__ hea - ven - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly__ Ghost!

✠ PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Ms. Jenni Fogt, Lector

HOLY Spirit, open our hearts to receive Your Word;
Reveal to us the Good News,
and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

[Leviticus 19.9-18](#)

GRADUAL

SOJOURNER

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

For more information about this spiritual, please visit:

[Discipleship Ministries | History of Hymns: 'I Want Jesus to Walk...' \(umcdiscipleship.org\).](#)

I want Jesus to walk with me.

All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me...

When I'm troubled, Lord, walk with me...

EPISTLE LESSON

[1 Timothy 1.1-7](#)

SERMON

In this song, we thank God for the material blessings He has given us, declare our intention to follow God's will in the generous use of those blessings, and then thank Him for the spiritual blessings He bestows upon us. We are reminded of what Jesus said in describing His Second Coming: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matthew 25.35-36, 40 ESV).



1. For the fruits of this cre - a - tion, thanks be to God!
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God!



For good gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God!
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God!



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that a - stound us, for the truths that still con-found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God!
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that Love has found us, thanks be to God!

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and buried.

On the third day He rose from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick* and the dead.

[*living]

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.*

[**universal]

RECEPTION of GOD'S TITHES and OUR OFFERINGS

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PRAYERS of INTERCESSION and THANKSGIVING (*responsively*)

Following each petition:

...Lord, in Your mercy:

Hear our prayer...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison*)

from Matthew 6.9-13

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. *Amen.*

✠ SENDING HYMN

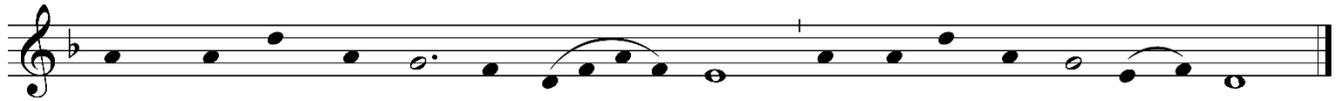
PICARDY



1. Judge E - ter - nal, throned in_ splen - dor, Lord of lords and King of__ kings,
2. Still the wea - ry folk are pi - ning for the hour that brings re - lease;
3. Crown, O God, Your own en - deav - or; Cleave our dark-ness with Your sword;



With Your liv - ing fire of__ judg-ment purge this land of bit - ter__ things;
And the ci - ty's crowd-ed__ clan - gor cries a - loud for sin to__ cease;
Feed the faint and hun - gry peo - ples with the rich-ness of Your Word;



So - lace all its wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of Your wings.
And the homesteads and the wood - lands plead in si - lence for their peace.
Cleanseth the bod - y of this na - tion thru the glo - ry of the__ Lord!

✠ BENEDICTION *and* COMMISSION

...Thanks be to God! *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

arr. Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

✠ DEPARTURE *into* THE MISSION FIELD



Our Lenten banner depicts the cross of Christ in white. It stands out against the darkness of purple, ash gray, and other somber colors, representing pain, suffering, mourning, and penance. The two black crosses of the thieves crucified with Christ are in the background. In contrast, the lighter colors around the cross of Christ represent hope that comes from the blood of Christ, shed for our redemption and the forgiveness of sin. The black sand and burlap runner in the chancel remind us of the biblical illustration of wearing sackcloth and the use of ashes as a sign of mourning and penitence, and they call us to remember our own human mortality. The reeds remind us of Jesus' fasting and temptation by Satan in the desert for 40 days and nights, while also foreshadowing Christ's Passion.



A special "thank you" to all those serving in worship today, including:
Master Evan Barber, Acolyte; Ms. Jen Fogt, Video Producer;
and The Reverend Stacey Lundy, Video Editor.



Week of March 7-13

10	LEVITICUS 11 MATTHEW 26 PSALM 67	LEVITICUS 12-14 MATTHEW 27 PSALM 51	LEVITICUS 15-16 PSALM 130 MATTHEW 28	LEVITICUS 17-18 I TIMOTHY 1	LEVITICUS 19-20 I TIMOTHY 2
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Click the seal above for more information on "The Story" or the banner above for a link to this week's reading plan.



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"To Make and Nurture Christian Disciples through the Presence and Power of God."