



Third Sunday in Lent
Worship Gathering
March 12, 2023

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Ministers, People of LCR

Pastor, The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe

Music Director, Ms. Xiaojing Chang

A Welcoming Community Making Christ Known Through Worship and Service

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

- ♦ **Breathe**
- ♦ **Ponder:** Whom did you bring with you on your heart today? For what or whom are you feeling thankful? What is making you anxious today? What do you need to confess today?
- ♦ **Be still,** empty your hands, empty your mind, let sounds pass you, wait upon God.

Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Congregational responses are indented and in bold.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy, ✠ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phantly Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of celebration, you have invited all people to rejoice in the goodness of your love. Help us to be hospitable to all people at your banquet, so that all might receive your blessing. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

Amen.

Word

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-10

¹I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.

²Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

³The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴**Then I called on the name of the LORD:**

"O LORD, I pray, save my life!"

⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

⁶**The LORD protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.**

⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸**For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

⁹I walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

¹⁰**I kept my faith, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted"**

Thy Word (sung)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.
and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.
and a light unto my path.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -
quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed
though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly,
por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your
heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious
fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Response:* **Hear our prayer.**

Meal

OFFERING *The giving of our time, talents, and money to the work of Christ's Church is an act of worship.
As God has blessed us, let us return thanks to Him.*

Take My Life, That I May Be

Verse 1



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings
 as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.
 Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence
 through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of Christ as he comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.
 Communion is by individual glass. Grape juice is also provided for those who prefer it.*

BLESSING *All Stand*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, +Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER LIST

Grieving

The Rottger Family

Strength

The Carroll Family

The Balassi-Williams Family

Al Burkhart

Lynn Dagata

Janet Delgado

Gabe DeMaria

Meg Gaffney

Jason Haley

Miles Hartnett

Karl Hurowitz

Vincent Keane

Ryan Lynch

Marty Massey

The Ott Family

Alaina Pratley

Dr. Les Prusnofsky

Brian Tarner

Annette Vassel

First Responders and Healthcare Workers

Serving in the Armed Forces

Bryan Bennett

Timothy Deluniversita

Carmen Green

Nicole Hetzer

Jim Oliveto

Justin Ortega

Sean Hudgins

Jesse Fritz

Sister Congregation

Epiphany Bayamón