# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
# MARCH 23, 2025
# 11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**LIFE OF THE CHURCH** Rev. Dr. Timothy T. Boggess

**NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION**

Christy Blue
Carol Hallstead
John Kutz
Ken Miller
Sue Miller
Joe Rudisill
Liz Rudisill

**PRELUDE** *A Joyous Song* Kerr
(The Handbell Choir)

adapted from Psalm 67

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Barbara Smith

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
**May God's way be known upon the earth,**
**May God's saving power be revealed among all nations.**
Praise the Lord, everyone!
All creation, praise the Lord!

***HYMN 361** *O Christ, the Great Foundation* AURELIA

1 O Christ, the great foundation
on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation
in every age and land:
pour out your Holy Spirit
to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken
as long as worlds endure.

2 Baptized in one confession,
one church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression,
the sign of second birth:
one holy people gathered
in love beyond our own,
by grace we were invited;
by grace we make you known.

3 Where tyrants' hold is tightened,
where strong devour the weak,
where innocents are frightened,
the righteous fear to speak,
there let your church awaking
attack the powers of sin
and, all their ramparts breaking,
with you the victory win.

4 This is the moment glorious
when he who once was dead
shall lead his church victorious,
their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation
his heavenly kingdom brings:
the final consummation,
the glory of all things.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,**
**we confess that we have strayed from your ways.**
**Like the prodigal son, we have wasted our inheritance.**
**You gave us the earth for our home,**
**but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty.**
**You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions.**
**You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing,**
**but we break your law and forsake your love.**
**Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.**
**Draw our wandering hearts back to you**
**that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.**

*(a moment for silent reflection)*

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
**Thanks be to God.**

***SONG OF JOY 805** (vv. 1 & 4) *Come Sing to God* ELLACOMBE

Come sing to God, O living saints;
sing praises to God's name.
God's anger is not permanent;
God's love will never wane.
Though tears may tarry for the night
with sighs of deepest pain,
yet joy comes with the morning sun,
a peace that is not vain.

You change my grief to joy-filled dance;
my sorrows you destroy.
In faithfulness you hear my cry
and fill my life with joy.
And so to you my heart shall sing;
my voice your goodness raise.
You are my God, forevermore.
My life shall sing your praise.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
**And also with you.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**ANTHEM** *O Sifuni Mungu (O Praise God)* arr. Roger Emerson
(The Chancel Choir with Matt Jarvis, soloist)

Viumbe vyote vya mungu wetu na mfalme wetu,
*All creatures of our God and King,*
Paseni sauti ili nasi Mwimbe
*Lift up your voice and with us sing*

Watu wote, viumbe vyote, awaye yote, sifu mungu!
*All men, all creation, everybody praise God!*

All creatures of our God and King, O sifuni mungu!
Lift up your voice and with us sing, O sifuni mungu!
Thou burning sun with golden beam, imbeni!
Thou silver moon with softer gleam, paseni, sauti, imbeni!

Thou flowing water pure and clear, O sifuni mungu!
Make music for thy Lord to hear! O sifuni mungu!
Thou fire, so masterful and bright, imbeni!
That givest man both warmth and light, imbeni!

Let all things their Creator bless, O sifuni mungu!
And worship Him in humbleness, O sifuni mungu!
Praise the Father, praise the Son, imbeni, imbeni!
And praise the Spirit, three in one, paseni sauti imbeni!

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

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**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 15:11-32

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Property Brothers* Rev. Boggess

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** Rev. Barbara Smith

**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.**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** *It Is Well with My Soul* arr. Hanks
(The Handbell Choir)

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Rev. Barbara Smith

**We hold that what God says to us and does for us**
**centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord**
**as he is remembered, known, and expected.**
**In Christ, God's Word of acceptance takes flesh:**
**by grace through faith**
**we are set right with God,**
**adopted as children of God,**
**not because of anything we have done,**
**but because of what Christ has done.**

## BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 774** *There Is Now a New Creation* STUTTGART

There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
peace and reconciliation
with the God of endless life.

Call the lost and found together;
tell the news to everyone:
now the past is gone forever
and a new life has begun.

Wrap the prodigal in welcome;
run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven;
let us now be reconciled.

Come and join the celebration;
come and join this happy feast;
Jesus makes an invitation
to the greatest and the least.

There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and adoration,
to the God of endless life!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

**POSTLUDE** *With All the Saints Triumphant* arr. Edwards
(The Handbell Choir)

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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