

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday in Lent – March 23, 2025**

Responsive Call to Worship – Lenten Liturgy



Third Sunday in Lent

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: In Lent, we hear Jesus' call to mend our ways:

All: repentance is necessary no matter who we are.

One: So we come to listen and respond to Jesus'
word of life,

All: for the Holy One will abundantly pardon.

One: In returning to the Lord, we trust that mercy
will be ours

All: and our lips will again praise the God of life.



THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Hymn 457 Now thank we all our God

**1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom God's world rejoices,**

who from our mother's arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. Oh may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with everjoyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all with grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
the Father and the Son
and Spirit now be given,
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
for thus it was, is now
and shall be evermore.

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 483 Glorious things of thee are spoken

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
One whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for a strong abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

2. See the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

**3. Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear,
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading
light by night and shade by day
daily on the manna feeding
which God gives them when they pray.**

**4. Saviour, since of Zion's city
we, through grace, a part may claim,
let the world deride or pity,
we will glory in thy name.
Fading is all worldly pleasure,
all its boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.**

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

O God, we do not always follow the way of the cross. We have short memories, so we forget that you led your people through the wilderness and gave them water when they were thirsty. We forget that you provide spiritual drink for our souls through Jesus Christ. Forgive us for thinking we have risen above ancient ways of sin. Show us how we too seek after idols. Forgive us when we put you to the test.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (*Debts/Debtors*)

**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, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Hymn 569 O Jesus, I have promised

**1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the struggle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**2. Oh let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within,
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**

**3. Oh let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
oh speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
oh speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

**4. O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be,
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
oh give me grace to follow
my Saviour and my friend.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 63:1-8 p. 477 NT & Psalms

¹O God, you are my God;
I earnestly search for you.

My soul thirsts for you;
my whole body longs for you
in this parched and weary land
where there is no water.

**²I have seen you in your sanctuary
and gazed upon your power and glory.**

³Your unfailing love is better than life itself;
how I praise you!

**⁴I will praise you as long as I live,
lifting up my hands to you in prayer.**

⁵You satisfy me more than the richest feast.
I will praise you with songs of joy.

**⁶I lie awake thinking of you,
meditating on you through the night.**

⁷Because you are my helper,
I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.

**⁸I cling to you;
your strong right hand holds me securely.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 55:1-9 p. 602 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 p. 294 NT & Psalms

Luke 13:1-9 p. 132 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Can we learn from the past?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 479 The church's one foundation

**1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation
by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought us
that we might ever be
his living servant people,
by his own death set free.**

2. Called forth from every nation,

yet one o'er all the earth,
our charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth,
one holy name professing
and at one table fed,
to one hope we are pressing,
by Christ's own Spirit led.

3. Though with a scornful wonder
the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, 'How long?'
But soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4. 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

5. We now on earth have union
with God the Three-in-One,
and share, through faith, communion
with those whose rest is won,
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

Loving God, accept these, our gifts, we pray. Bless them and use them to inspire peace in places of unrest, love in places of resentment, joy in places of fear, and hope in places of loss, all for the sake of Jesus Christ, our friend and Saviour. Amen.

Hymn 699 All the way my Saviour leads me

- 1. All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell;
for I know, whate'er befall me
Jesus doeth all things well.**
- 2. All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see.**
- 3. All the way my Saviour leads me,
oh the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude