

Sunday March 20, 2022 | 9:30am
Third Sunday of Lent

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

PRELUDE

"My Savior My God"

Shust CCLI:4592255

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come, because we seek our God.

C: Every morning, every day, every evening, every moment, God is with us.

L: We come, because we hunger for Christ.

C: Jesus will feed us with hope, will replace our emptiness with grace.

L: We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

C: Who fills our yearning for peace, who ends the drought of justice.

+OPENING HYMN

"What A Beautiful Name"

1 You were the Word at the beginning
One With God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

Chorus

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King

2 You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

3 Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

4 You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God You reign
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

CCLI Song # 7068424
Ben Fielding | Brooke Ligertwood
CCLI License # 789849

+GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Even If"

Mercy Me CCLI:7079513

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why 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 delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline 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. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let 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. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 63:1-8

Our Psalm today will be read responsively. The lectern side will read the regular print and the pulpit side will read the bold.

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

+GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **C: Glory to you O, Lord.**

1At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.2[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." 6Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' 8He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.' "

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Mollie Dvorak

+HYMN OF THE DAY

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

WOV 731

+APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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.

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each portion of the prayers: L: Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

L: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior

C: Amen.

+PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The congregation may share a social distance sign of peace with one another.

OFFERING

"Peace In The Valley"

Thomas A. Dorsey

We have a generous God who provides for us richly. We honor God in return with our offering.

Thank you for giving generously to St. Mark.

+OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Change My Heart, O God

Refrain

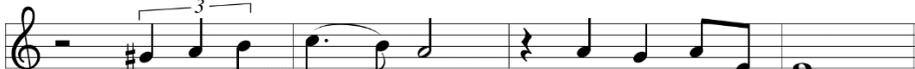


Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

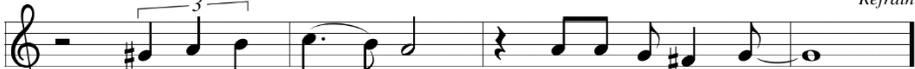
End



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Refrain

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

OFFERING PRAYER

L: You pour out grace upon us, Loving God, not so we might be filled, but we might empty ourselves for others. Take these gifts we offer in these moments and use them to bring new life and hope to all around us. This we pray in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

+HOLY COMMUNION

The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered as part of our worship. You will be directed forward to receive communion (prepackaged). If you feel more comfortable remaining in your seat, prepackaged communion can be brought to you. Children and adults not yet taking communion may come forward for a blessing.

All are welcome to receive the bread and the grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONGS

**“When God His Love in My Heart”
“Daniel Prayed”**

Williams CCLI:14239

Stanley CCLI:235166

+POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

C: Amen.

+BENEDICTION

L: Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to: walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

C: Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

“Your Grace is Enough”

Great is your faithfulness oh God
You wrestle with the sinner’s heart
You lead us by still waters and to mercy
And nothing can keep us apart
So remember your people
Remember your children
Remember your promise
Oh God

Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Great is your love and justice God
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of your salvation
And all your people sing along
So remember your people
Remember your children
Remember your promise
Oh God

Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me *Repeat*

So remember your people
Remember your children
Remember your promise
Oh God

Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Your grace is enough
Heav'n reaching down to us
Your grace is enough for me

God, I see Your grace is enough
I'm covered in your love
Your grace is enough for me

CCLI Song # 4477026
Matt Maher
CCLI License # 789849

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Lori Johnson

Prayers: Keli Moffat

Communion: Ann Kelling

Ushers: Jeff and Lori Johnson

Greeters: Connie Lundholm

PRAYER AND CONCERN

John Wilberg and family as they grieve the death of his twin sister, Joanne
Cindy Fryer

Anita Pouchnik's friend Gene and brother Michael

Elaine, Ruth, Richard, Robbin, Yvonne, Susan, Sherry, Sue, Wendy, Kelly, Sandy, Mashell, Shannon,
Leslie, Dave, Sandie, and Mark.

Please contact the office with any updates to this prayer and concern list—thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blanket Making Event -TODAY!

After worship, we will work on making a bunch of tie blankets for the blanket quilts and puppy program with the Fire Department. These blankets are in several emergency vehicles and are given out on calls.

Hungering for the Basic Stories - Lent

This week we will welcome Paul Oman for Drawn to the Word! Invite your friends and neighbors - you don't want to miss this! Dinner will begin at 5:45pm and the menu is baked potato bar! Worship will start promptly at 6:30pm. All ages are welcome!

Easter Flowers

Easter flowers are now available for you to purchase! Help us adorn our sanctuary for our Easter Sunday celebration service. Thanks to Ginny Hestekind for coordinating!

Camp Wapo

Looking for something to do in the middle of summer? Come to Camp Wapo with us! We have spots reserved for all ages! More info can be found on the bulletin board on the ramp in the narthex. Find Jenny if you have any questions! *Seeds Camp* - completed grades 1st-3rd - July 15-17th | *Wapo Youth Camp* - completed grades 4th - 8th - July 10 - 15th | *Ox Lake Roots* - completed grades 7th - 12th - July 10-15th

MN Food Share March Campaign

The Centennial Community Food shelf needs our help! They are participating in this campaign that bring together community organizations, businesses and individuals to fill food shelves statewide! You can

donate via their website directly, or by donating on our giving page and we will send a check over to them. This campaign runs through April 1st.

Star Word Prompt

In this season of Lent, what repentance or self-examination has come from your star word so far?

First Communion

If you or anyone in your family have not received their first communion and would like to learn more about it, please connect Pastor Mollie. We will offer a time of first communion at our Maundy Thursday service at 7pm.

St. Mark Council Members

- Kent Barnard - President
- Tom Majkozak - Vice Present
- Lis Trouten - Secretary
- Susan Koosmann - Treasurer
- Brenda Weaver - Member at large
- Daryl Grandstrand - Member at large

St. Mark Finance Team Members

- Susan Koosmann
- Don Pouchnik
- Joann Larson
- Jon Tennesen
- Teri Smith

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| Monday 3/21 | Office Hours: 10-4pm Men who love donuts: 9:30am Women’s Bible study: 9:30am Study via Zoom: 6:30pm |
| Tuesday 3/22 | Office Hours: 10-4pm Staff Meeting: 1:30pm |
| Wednesday 3/23 | Office Hours: 12-5pm Lent Dinner: 5:45pm (Baked Potato Bar) Lent Worship: 6:30pm <i>Drawn to the Word - Paul Oman</i> Choir Rehearsal: 7:15pm |
| Thursday 3/24 | Office Hours: 10-3pm Stitchin’ in the Dark: 1pm |
| Friday 3/25 | Office Closed |
| Saturday 3/26 | AA: 10:30am |
| Sunday 3/27 | Worship: 9:30am Education/Fellowship: 10:45am Book Study in person: 10:45am |