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**Worship Plan for Sunday, March 23, 2025**

Third Sunday in Lent

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Reflection - Preparing for Worship**

**Sing 2x**

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*Please stand.*

**P: Confession and Forgiveness**

*All make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,**

**but our lives do not always reflect you**

**and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion**

**you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality**

**you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,**

**even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives**

**and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God’s arms are always stretched open wide

to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God’s house forever.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song**  *Before the Waters Nourished the Earth* **ACS#1049**

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**P: 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.**

**Kyrie**

**** *For the Troubles and the Suffering* **ACS#1051**

**P: Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

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.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**WORD**

**L: First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah.

1 Ho, 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.  
 2 Why 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.  
 3 Incline 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.  
 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
  a leader and commander for the peoples.  
 5 See, 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.  
 6 Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
  call upon him while he is near;  
 7 let 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.  
 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
  nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
  so are my ways higher than your ways  
  and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8**

1 O God, you are my God; eager- **|** ly 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.  
 2 **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,**  
  **that I might behold your power | and your glory.**  
 3 For your steadfast love is better than **|** life itself;  
  my lips shall **|** give you praise.  
 4 **So will I bless you as long | as I live**  
  **and lift up my hands | in your name. R**  
 5 My spirit is content, as with the rich- **|** est of foods,  
  and my mouth praises you with **|** joyful lips,  
 6 **when I remember you up- | on my bed,**  
  **and meditate on you in | the night watches.**  
 7 For you have **|** been my helper,  
  and under the shadow of your wings I **|** will rejoice.  
 8 **My whole being | clings to you;**  
  **your right hand | holds me fast. R**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

1 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.  
  6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**P:Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 At 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?3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or 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? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”  
  6 Then 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. 7 So 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?’ 8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Children’s Message**

**Sermon**

*Please stand.*

**Hymn of the Day** *As the Rain From the Clouds* **ELW#508**

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**A: Apostles’ Creed**

Let us confess our faith to the words of the 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 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,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

**A: Prayers of Intercession**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (*especially*). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (*especially*). May their witness inspire our own.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

**P: Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**MEAL**

*Please be seated.*

**Offering**

**Choir –** *Cross Medley*

*Please stand.*

**Offertory Hymn**

**Offertory Prayer**

**A**: Let us pray

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,

opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,

deepen our commitment to sharing those

treasures with others,

through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**P: The Great Thanksgiving**

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**Timeline

Description automatically generatedThe Lord’s Prayer**

**Invitation to Communion**

All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

*Please be seated.*

**Communion Hymns**

A sheet music with text and notes

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*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* **ELW#623**

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*There is a Longing in Our Hearts* **ACS#1078**

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**A: Prayer After Communion**

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,

in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**SENDING**

**P: Blessing**

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Song**  *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* **ELW#618**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**