

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 24, 2019

Worship Focus

Repent Is a Good Word because God is... Reserved



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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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OPENING HYMN

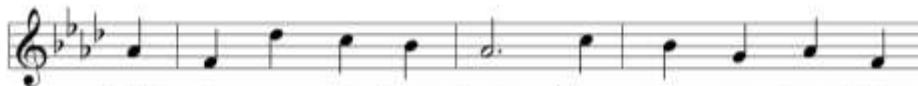
339 - Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day your mer - cy calls us To wash a -
2 To - day your gate is o - pen, And all who
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er



way our sin. How - ev - er great our tres - pass,
en - ter in Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come
Spir - it waits. His bless - ed an - gels gath - er
o - pen Door, What should we do with - out you



What - ev - er we have been, How - ev - er long from
And par - don for their sin. The past shall be for -
A - round the heav'n - ly gates. No ques - tion will be
When heart and eye run o'er? When all things seem a -



mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way, Your pre - cious
got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n, A fu - ture
asked us How of - ten we have come; Al - though we
gainst us, To drive us to de - spair, We know one



blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
grace be prom - ised; A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt.

Tune: ANTHES (76 76 D) Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Exodus 3:1-8b, 10-15

God was patient with mankind, but with the arrival of Moses, God was ready to set his promises in motion. Note, also his great patience with Moses!

EXODUS 3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey

¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

ADULT CHOIR

Out of the Depths

Psalm 130, adapt. Thomas Keesecker; Copyright 2015 Birnamwood

*Out of the depths I call to you!
Lord, hear my voice; I cry for help!
Waiting in hope, I long for you!
Pardon our sins; have mercy, Lord!
Redeem us, Lord, with steadfast love.*

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

We learn patience from the accounts of the past, trusting that in the present, God always reserves a way out from trouble.

¹CORINTHIANS 10:1 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Just as the Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14,15)

GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9

The call of Lent to “repent” is possible because God holds his anger back in reserve, offering us “one more year” of grace.

LUKE 13:1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸“ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’ ”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it ...

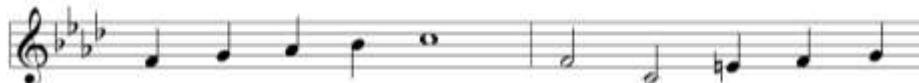
LUKE 13:6, NRSV

HYMN OF THE DAY

302 - Lord, to You I Make Confession



1 Lord, to you I make con - fes - sion: I have
 2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther,
 3 For your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n him -
 4 Lord, on you I cast my bur - den— Sink it



sinned and gone a - stray; I have mul - ti - plied
 I will seek your face. Though your child I dare
 self to res - cue me, Died to save me and
 in the depths be - low! Let me know your gra -



trans - gres - sion, Cho - sen for my - self my way.
 not call me, Yet re - ceive me to your grace.
 re - store me, Rec - on - ciled and set me free.
 cious par - don; Wash me, make me white as snow.



Led by you to see my er - rors,
 Do not for my sins for - sake me;
 Je - sus' cross a - lone can van - quish
 Let your Spir - it leave me nev - er;



Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors.
 Do not let your wrath o'er - take me.
 These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
 Make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

TEXT: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; cf. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 TUNE: HERR, ICH HABE MISSGEHANDELT (87 87 88) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

SERMON

Luke 13:1-9

The Benefits of a Good Scandal

1. The scandal of tragedy leads me to look inside... to repent
2. The scandal of grace leads me to look outside... to faith

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace, that we may repent of our sins and walk in the way of truth, and for an end to complaints against the Lord and His mercy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to recognize Christ, the rock of our salvation, and for the wisdom to recognize temptation and the strength to withstand it, that we might escape the deception of the enemy and the prison of doubt, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to guide and bless those who lead us in this land and in all nations; for peace and an end to war, violence and terror; and for a willingness to work together for the common good while protecting the unborn, the aged and the frail, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace for the ill, for those recovering from hospitalization or illness, for the aged and infirm, for the widow and orphan, for those persecuted because of the faith, [*for those for whom our prayers have been requested _____, and those now named in our hearts,*] and for God to grant them healing and strength according to His benevolent will and purpose, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to remember with thanksgiving the faithful who went before us and now rest from their labors, and for our endurance, that we may not give up the hope planted within us in our Baptism but receive the crown of everlasting life prepared for those who love the Lord, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

423 - Not in Anger, Mighty God



1 Not in an - ger, might - y God, Not in an - ger
 2 Show me now a Fa - ther's love And his ten - der
 3 My dear Sav - ior comes in grace; He will al - ways
 4 Fa - ther, hymns to you we raise With sin - cere thanks -



smite us. We must per - ish if your rod
 pa - tience. Heal my wound - ed soul; re - move
 hear me. I may come be - fore his face;
 giv - ing And the Son and Spir - it praise



Just - ly should re - quite us. We are naught;
 These too sore temp - ta - tions. I am weak;
 He is ev - er near me. He o'er - throws
 With re - pent - ant liv - ing. Ev - er - more



Sin has brought, Lord, your wrath up -
 Fa - ther, speak Now of peace and
 All my foes; Death and hell are
 We a - dore You whose love has



on us. Yet have mer - cy on us!
 glad - ness; Com - fort me in sad - ness.
 van - quished, In whose bonds I lan - guished.
 stirred us And whose pit - y heard us.

Text: Johann G. Albinus, 1624-79, abt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Tune: STRAF MICH NICHT (76 76 33 66) *Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien*, Dresden, 1694, alt.

PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

473 - Savior, I Follow On



1 Sav - ior, I fol - low on, Guid - ed by thee,
 2 Riv - en the rock for me, Thirst to re - lieve,
 3 Of - ten to Ma - rah's brink Have I been brought;
 4 Sav - ior, I long to walk Clos - er with thee;



See - ing not yet the hand That lead - eth me,
 Man - na from heav - en falls Fresh ev - 'ry eve.
 Shrink - ing the cup to drink, Help I have sought,
 Led by thy guid - ing hand, Ev - er to be



Hushed be my heart and still; Fear I no fur - ther ill.
 Nev - er a want se - vere Caus - eth my eye a tear,
 And with the prayer's as - cent Je - sus the branch hath rent,
 Con - stant - ly near thy side, Quick - ened and pu - ri - fied,



On - ly to meet thy will My will shall be,
 But thou dost whis - per near, "On - ly be - lieve."
 Quick - ly re - lief hath sent, Sweet - 'ning the draught.
 Liv - ing for him who died Free - ly for me.

Text: Charles S. Robinson, 1829-99, alt.

Tune: WINTERTON (64 64 6664) Joseph Barnby, 1838-96.

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.