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∞ THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT ∞  
ORDER OF WORSHIP • MARCH 3, 2024 • 9:00 AM  
✝ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

✝ GATHERING HYMN

CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE  
FOUNDATION  
LBW #367

✝ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Let us confess our sins to God. We come in boldness and confidence, not according to our merit, but according to God's grace towards us in Jesus Christ.

**All: God of grace, you have called us to walk your path of love, all the way to the cross. We confess that we don't always trust in the power of love but rely instead on the power of worldly might and violence. You have called us to walk your path of healing. We confess that we don't always believe in the power of healing but instead rely on the power of revenge and retribution. You call us to forgive as you forgive, to share as you freely share, and to trust in you and your authority. We have fallen short. We have strayed from your path. We have failed to trust in you. Forgive us. Forgive us and turn us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. We pray in the name of Christ, our Light. Amen.**

WL: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent Jesus into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are set free to live a new life in Him. We can joyfully follow his commands and willingly go where he leads, to the cross and resurrection. Thanks be to God!**

## ✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

WL: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

EXODUS 20:1-17

R: The First lesson for this Third Sunday in Lent is from the twentieth chapter of Exodus.

And God spoke all these words:

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

R: Our Second Lesson is from the first chapter of Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

# CHOIR ANTHEM

DAY BY DAY  
BY MARTIN HOW

**Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,  
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.**

## ✠ HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 2:13-22

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord!**

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ!**

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

*Music is printed on the back page*

Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure creative Word,  
whose power beyond and through all space the worlds to Being stirred.  
Christ is the life beyond all time, creation's birth and breath,  
whose labor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.

Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck'ning tomb,  
who welcomes us from well-worn ways to darkness of the womb.  
Christ is the death, the sinking down past all desire and fear,  
whose promise in the gentle dark bids newness to appear.

Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, consuming fire,  
whose flames require our prior self as kindling for the pyre.  
Christ is the death of dusty days of uncreative strife,  
for out from fire we tread upon the threshold of new life.

Christ is the life of all that is, Beginning and the End;  
creative force, most peaceful death, transforming burning brand.  
Christ is the life, in whose wise love creation lives and dies  
and thus forevermore shall bless the Source, the living Christ.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

## GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

*Giving Envelopes are available in the back of each pew*

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## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### ✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## ✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### ✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray together:

All: **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 trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### ✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### HYMN

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS  
LBW #482, TUNE: HAMBURG

### ✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

All: **Amen.**

### ✠ CHARGE & BLESSING

*based on Psalm 121:5-8*

WL: Go out now in faith, trusting in God's promises. Remember how much God loves this world and so love the world in the name of Christ, that your testimony becomes the good news someone else has been waiting to receive.

May the Lord watch over you. May the Lord keep you from all harm and watch over your life. May the Lord watch over your coming and going now and forevermore.

All: **Amen.**

✝ SENDING SONG

THIS TRAIN IS BOUND FOR GLORY

**This train is bound for glory (3X)**

**Children, get on board!**

**No more weepin' and a-wailin'. (3X)**

**Children, get on board!**

**This train has no strangers (3X)**

**Children, get on board!**

**No more weepin' and a-wailin'. (3X)**

**Children, get on board!**

✝ SENDING

**WL:** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

# TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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**Liturgy from Lutheran Service Book.**

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## DAY BY DAY

Words by St. Richard of Chichester

Music by Martin How © 1977 The Royal School of Church Music

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## CHRIST IS THE LIFE

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

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# Christ Is the Life



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,  
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,  
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,  
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred,  
who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.  
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.  
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans-form-ing burn-ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,  
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,  
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,  
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.  
whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.  
for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.  
and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: KINGSFOLD, English melody