

**PRAISE SERVICE
MARCH 23, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION *During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, find the Scripture readings in the Bible, and pray. You may use this prayer: **Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of Your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship You with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.***

CHILDREN *We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.*

INTRODUCTION *The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent, the season of repentance: 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 only by the gardener's readiness to till the ground yet one more year. That is good news for all of us—thanks be to God!*

WELCOME AND MEDITATION

GATHERING HYMN *(Please rise.)*

"Rock of Ages" (LBW # 327 - favorite)

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778 Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

INVOCATION (= *All may make the sign of the cross.*)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, Who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

C: AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Gracious God, **C: We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve You in newness of life. AMEN.**

P: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C: AMEN.

GREETING *(Please rise.)*

P: The immeasurable grace of Jesus Christ, the rich mercy of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

*With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
"Let all the peoples praise him." (Romans 15:6,11)*

KYRIE *(WOV p. 12) (Congregation sings bold)*

Somewhat freely ♩ = 72

A In
peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the
C Lord, have mer - cy.
Guitar (responses only): A B^b/A A

peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A B^b/A A

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A B^b/A A

wor-ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**
 L: Let us pray together: **C: 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, so that we be fruitful instru-
 ments of Your redeeming love; through Jesus Christ,
 our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You
 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.**

RESPONSIVE READING....Psalm 63 (*congregation: indented*)

O God, You are my God,
 earnestly I seek You;
 my soul thirsts for You, my body longs for You,
 in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
 I have seen You in the sanctuary
 and beheld Your power and Your glory.

Because Your love is better than life,

my lips will glorify You.

I will praise You as long as I live,

and in Your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods;

with singing lips my mouth will praise You.

On my bed I remember You;

I think of You through the watches of the night.

Because You are my help, I sing in the shadow of Your wings.

My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

They who seek my life will be destroyed;

they will go down to the depths of the earth.

They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals.

But the king will rejoice in God;

all who swear by God's name will praise Him,

while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

(Please be seated.)

PRAISE SONG “*Thy Loving Kindness*” (Maj # 101 - favorite)

Hugh Mitchell Based on Psalm 63:3, 4 THY LOVING KINDNESS Hugh Mitchell

The musical score is written for two voices (1 and 2) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with two parts and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Thy lov - ing kind - ness is bet - ter than life, Thy lov - ing
2 I lift my hands up un - to Thy name, I lift my

1 kind - ness is bet - ter than life. My lips shall praise Thee, thus will I
2 hands up un - to Thy name. My lips shall praise Thee, thus will I

1 bless Thee: I will lift up my hands un - to Thy name.
2 bless Thee: I will lift up my hands un - to Thy name.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

For everything was written to teach us, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

FIRST READINGIsaiah 55:1-9p. 1148

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING....1 Corinthians 10:1-14.....p. 1782

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Please rise.*) "Abide with Me"

Verse 1 (LBW # 272 - favorite - Text: Henry F. Lyte; Tune: William H. Monk)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are as follows:

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
The what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9.....p. 1619

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *verse 2*

(Young children may go to Children's Church)

SERMON *(Please sit. See outline in Announcements insert.)*

"Pursuing Lasting Treasure - Part 3: Fruitfulness"

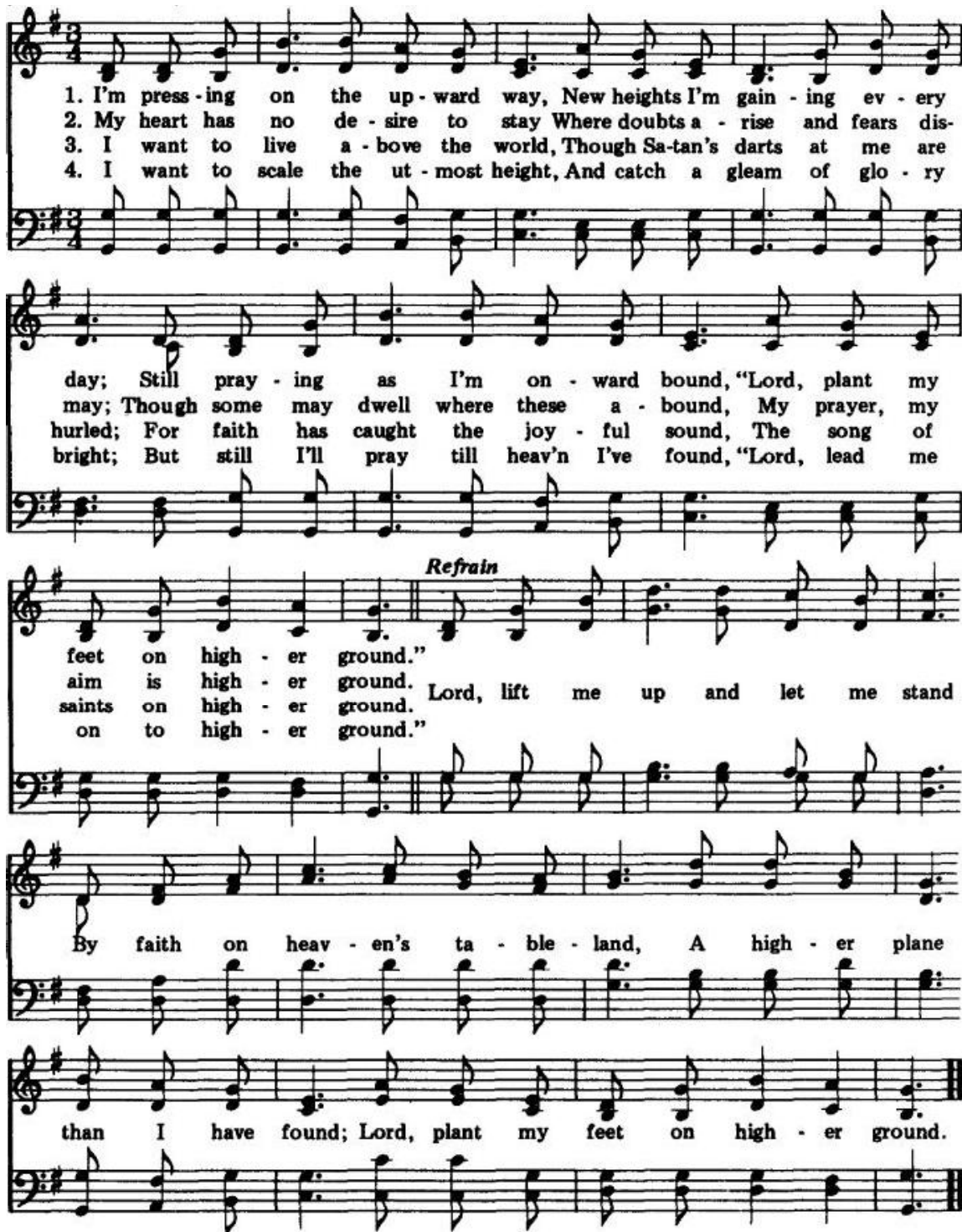
WE RESPOND IN FAITH

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

(Romans 15:13)

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.) "Higher Ground"*

(Maj # 401 - favorite - Text: Johnson Oatman, Jr.; Tune: Charles H Gabriel)



1. I'm press - ing on the up - ward way, New heights I'm gain - ing ev - ery
2. My heart has no de - sire to stay Where doubts a - rise and fears dis -
3. I want to live a - bove the world, Though Sa - tan's darts at me are
4. I want to scale the ut - most height, And catch a gleam of glo - ry

day; Still pray - ing as I'm on - ward bound, "Lord, plant my
may; Though some may dwell where these a - bound, My prayer, my
hurl'd; For faith has caught the joy - ful sound, The song of
bright; But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found, "Lord, lead me

Refrain
feet on high - er ground."
aim is high - er ground. Lord, lift me up and let me stand
saints on high - er ground.
on to high - er ground."

By faith on heav - en's ta - ble - land, A high - er plane
than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on high - er ground.

SMALL CATECHISM READING

L: Let us confess our faith by reading a portion of Luther's Small Catechism, *Part I. The Ten Commandments*:

L: What is The Fourth Commandment

C: "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."
(Exodus 20:12)

L: What does this mean?

C: We must fear and love God, so that we will neither look down on our parents or superiors nor irritate them, but will honor them, serve them, obey them, love them and value them.

L: What is The Fifth Commandment

C: "You shall not murder." (Exodus 20:13)

L: What does this mean?

C: We must fear and love God, so that we will neither harm nor hurt our neighbor's body, but help him and care for him when he is ill.

L: What is The Sixth Commandment

C: "You shall not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14)

L: What does this mean?

C: We must fear and love God, so that we lead pure and decent lives in word and deed, and so that everyone will love and honor their spouses.

OFFERING *We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

BLESSING

P: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C: AMEN.

SENDING HYMN *(Please rise.)*

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Maj # 519 - favorite)

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

*Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments.
Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place.
You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.*

ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

Holy Cross, to the Glory of God

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960 Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

MARCH 23, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

SERVANTS OF THE LORD TODAY

COVER ART: Laila Erney
GREETER: 8:30-Diane Hahn | 10:45-Irene Graham
SOUND: 8:30-Josh Miller | 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer
LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jonah Kincaid
SONG LEADER: 8:30-Emma Fliszar | 10:45-**Volunteer needed**
LITURGIST: 8:30-Pat Gilbert | 10:45-Lyn Stryker
LECTOR: 8:30-Alyce Stein | 10:45-Kathy Ballek
CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Ruthann Kistler
ALTAR GUILD: Alyce & Patty Stein
COUNTERS: Jan Stryker, Karen Brown
SEXTON: **Volunteers needed**
PHONETREE: Jim Femister
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski
PRAYER CARE: Darlene Treisner (610-442-8494)

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



a congregation of the
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LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*
Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Karen Brown, *Secretary*
Volunteers Needed, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*
Lisa Wechsler, *Bookkeeper* † Jim Femister, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM
(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

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