

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

God Is Faithful

March 2 & 3, 2013

### AS WE GATHER

From beginning to end, the Scriptures are testament to one basic truth-God is faithful. It is an easy truth to forget or shrug off in search of supposed deeper or more profound truths but we do so to our peril. The promises of God are worthless to us unless God is faithful. Since God is faithful, then those promises form the sturdy foundation on which we build the secure hope for an everlasting future. This becomes even more personal as we face the stresses and tensions of daily life. Just when we are pulled to the breaking point by struggles and sorrows, we confess this promise. God is faithful. God will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability. His faithful and sufficient grace will be our strength and keep us long after the toils and troubles of the moment are forgotten.

+ PREPARATION +

### WELCOME

*“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

*Hebrews 10:25*

### HYMN #696

“O God, My Faithful God”

Stanzas 1-4

O God, my faithful God, True fountain ever flowing, Without whom nothing is,  
All perfect gifts bestowing: Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within  
A conscience free from blame, A soul unstained by sin.

Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing Whatever you command,  
My calling here fulfilling; That I do what I should While trusting you to bless  
The outcome for my good, For you must give success.

Keep me from saying words That later need recalling; Guard me lest idle speech  
May from my lips be falling; But when within my place I must and ought to speak,  
Then to my words give grace Lest I offend the weak.

Lord, let me win my foes With kindly words and actions,  
And let me find good friends For counsel and correction.  
Help me, as you have taught, To love both great and small  
And by your Spirit’s might To live in peace with all.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The LORD knows the way of the righteous,

People: **but the way of the wicked will perish.** *Psalm 1:6*

Pastor: For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell in  
YOU. *Psalm 5:4*

People: **Through the abundance of your steadfast love, I will enter your house,  
O LORD.** *Psalm 5:7, adapted*

Pastor: O Lord:

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, plead guilty before you of all my sins. I have  
lived as if you did not matter and as if I mattered most of all. Your  
name, O Lord, I have not honored as I ought; my worship and prayers  
have faltered. I have not let your love persuade me and so my love for  
others has failed. There are those who I have hurt and those whom I  
have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I am  
sorry for all of this and I beg you for your grace to forgive me all my sin  
and grant me your Spirit to amend my sinful life,**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His  
sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ  
and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of  
the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. To the impenitent and  
unbelieving I declare, that so long as you continue in your impenitence,  
God will not forgive your sins and will visit your iniquity upon you until  
you turn from your sinful ways, come to repentance, and trust in the  
merits of Jesus Christ alone.

People: **Amen.**

### COLLECT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, your faithfulness endures to all generations and  
those who trust in you will not be disappointed. Guard us against the  
temptations and doubts that would steal our faith and joy away. Renew  
our hearts that we may repent of our sins and rejoice in your steadfast  
love and grace all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we  
pray.

People: **Amen.**

**+ THE WORD OF GOD +**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Ezekiel 33:7-20 (*The Lord seeks not the death of the sinner but that he turn from his wickedness and live.*) “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. “Son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?’ “Therefore, son of man, say to your countrymen, ‘The righteousness of the righteous man will not save him when he disobeys, and the wickedness of the wicked man will not cause him to fall when he turns from it. The righteous man, if he sins, will not be allowed to live because of his former righteousness.’ If I tell the righteous man that he will surely live, but then he trusts in his righteousness and does evil, none of the righteous things he has done will be remembered; he will die for the evil he has done. And if I say to the wicked man, ‘You will surely die,’ but he then turns away from his sin and does what is just and right—if he gives back what he took in pledge for a loan, returns what he has stolen, follows the decrees that give life, and does no evil, he will surely live; he will not die. None of the sins he has committed will be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he will surely live. “Yet your countrymen say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ But it is their way that is not just. If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and does evil, he will die for it. And if a wicked man turns away from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he will live by doing so. Yet, O house of Israel, you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ But I will judge each of you according to his own ways.”

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (*God is faithful and will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability.*)\_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. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do 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.” We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No 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.

**8:00 ANTHEM**

*“God’s Peace”*

*Choir*

(Please Rise)

**GOSPEL** Luke 13:1-9 (*Unless you repent, you also will perish.*)

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or 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? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Then 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. So 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?’ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

(Be seated)

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN #809**                    **"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not:

Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**            **Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;**

**All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;**

**Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!    *Refrain*

**SERMON**

*“Living On Borrowed Time”*

Luke 13:1-9

(Rise)

**NICENE CREED** *(as found in the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: People loved by God, let us come before our Father’s throne of grace with confidence through our Lord Jesus and, in the power of His Spirit, ask His mercy for all in need.

*Brief silence.*

Pastor: Merciful Father, your salvation is near to those who fear you. Look in kindness upon your whole Church and pour out on your family the gift of repentance that all your children might be given grace continually to heed your Word,

**People: and by the power of your Spirit, grant us to turn from our sin and find forgiveness and life in your Son.**

Pastor: Giver of salvation, remember all pastors, especially our Synod president, Matthew, our District President, John, together with our pastors, deaconesses, teachers, missionaries and servants of the Church.

**People: Give them courage to speak your saving Word fearlessly that it may do its mighty work by your Spirit’s power.**

Pastor: Kind and loving Lord, look in mercy upon this congregation. Remove all hypocrisy from us and strengthen all our members that we may be living witnesses to your gift of eternal life.

**People: Fill us with unity, joy, and peace in our homes, in all our relationships, when at work and at play.**

Pastor: King of kings and Lord of lords, to you we commend all who have been entrusted with authority in our land, and all who serve in our armed forces.

**People: Grant them integrity and honor in all they undertake and guide them into paths that are pleasing to you.**

Pastor: Holy One, you tell us in your Word that you do not willingly afflict the sons of men. Hear our prayers for all your children who are suffering or in need, the lonely and afflicted, the grieving and the dying and especially

your servants David, Dorothy, William, Kerry, Eleanor, Carol, Bob, Carri, Jean, Lois, Sarah, Irma, Nancy, Gerald and Joe.

**People: Comfort troubled hearts with the promises of your Word, surround them with your angels to protect them in body and soul, and grant them release from their afflictions according to your will.**

Pastor: Faithful God, you do not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear, but in our trials You always provide the way of escape for us to bear it. Remember in pity all those whose faith is put to the test, who struggle with addictions, who feel abandoned.

**People: Open the eyes of their spirit to sense you near them and let them find in your Word and Sacraments the relief and release they need.**

Pastor: Father of our Lord Jesus, your Son has prepared for His family a feast, that we might not grow weary in the struggle, but find comfort, hope, and continual renewal.

**People: Grant to all who come to the holy altar this day repentant hearts and firm trust in the promise of the Savior, that here they will receive with His body and blood, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of a life that death cannot take away.**

Pastor: Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of your faithful people of every time and every place, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

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

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first. 6

**HYMN #761 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law’s demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly: Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

**HYMN #430 “My Song Is Love Unknown”**

My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and non The longed for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.  
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease And ‘gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life They slay.  
Yet cheerful He To suff’ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.

In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav’n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

**HYMN #550 “Lamb of God”**

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

**Refrain**

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

**Refrain**

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

**Refrain**

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD for He is good.

**People: for His steadfast love endures forever!** *Psalms 106:1*

Pastor: Blessed Lord, your steadfast love and faithfulness endures to all generations. Guard us from the terrors of a guilty conscience and grant us the absolution of all our sins. Keep us from all fears that would deprive us of your joy and peace. Comfort us with the promise that nothing can shake us from the sturdy foundation you have prepared for us in Jesus Christ our Lord, that we may build upon this foundation and bear the good fruit of your kingdom in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #918    “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”**

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell’s destruction, Land me safe on Canaan’s side. Songs of  
praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

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|-------------------|---|
| Preacher          | Pastor Gregg Stanton                          |
| Liturgist         | Pastor Harold Bender                          |
| Lectors           | Virginia Sell, Marc Stefanic, Grant Gundersen |
| Acolytes          | Cross Foti, Amber Hren, Kyler Hutchins        |
| Organist          | Roger Gottschalk                              |
| Choir Director    | Nancy Hoelke                                  |
| Music Coordinator | Kim Woller                                    |