

Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE *There is a Balm in Gilead*
 (Steve Hoopes)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *(Time for Silent Preparation)*

 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Bonnie Mecaughey

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,
for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.
The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,
for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.
The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,
for we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.
O come, let us worship the Lord!

 **INVOCATION**

Bonnie Mecaughey

Lord Jesus, we walk with you
through the valley of the shadow of death.
Let us find our life in you, O Lord.
Banished from the Garden of Eden for our rebellion,
we long for the garden of Paradise.
O Lord, you are the Christ.
Remember us in your kingdom.
We come to hear you speak of your love for us.
You have the words of eternal life. Amen.

 **OPENING HYMN 6** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

CONFESSING: *God invites us to be honest with Him*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Bonnie Mecaughey

If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Let us confess our sins to almighty God.

—based on 1 John 1:8-9, NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Bonnie Mecaughey

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being;
teach us wisdom in our secret heart.

Send out your light, send out your truth,
and let them lead us to our home.
Take from us the weight of our sin,
that room might be made for the spirit of truth.
If we prepare a dwelling place, that spirit will abide within us,
and the truth will set our spirits free.
Then shall we love not only in word or in speech;
then shall we love in deed and in truth,
and by this know that our service is faithful.
O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being;
teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Bonnie Mecaughey

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

—1 Peter 2:9-10, NRSV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men*

OFFERING: *Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him*

INVITATION God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other, to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Amazing Grace – organ / piano duet*

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

 **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Merciful God, always out to save,
friend of the suffering,
foe of all who cause suffering,
with these gifts we join your greater work in the world,
confident of your final victory
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

 **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You
All: And also with you*

 **PREPARATION HYMN 233** *Alleluia, Sing to Jesus*

PROCLAIMING: *God speaks to us through His Word*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, before this world's days even began, your Word was in the beginning,
and it was with you and it was you. The mystery of that brings us to our knees.
Yet today you allow us to open your Word and know you better.
So we ask that you would give us eyes to see and ears to hear.
Give us hearts open to your Spirit as we seek you. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING *Ephesians 4:1-16*

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train
and gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

SERMON

*“From Doctrine to Duty”
Rev. Dan Stewart*

 **HYMN OF RESPONSE 562** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

RESPONDING: *We respond to God’s Word*

PROFESSION OF FAITH (In Unison)

**My only comfort in life and in death is
that I am not my own,
but belong—
body and soul,
in life and in death—
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.
Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.**

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The prayer our Savior taught us begins with the words
“Our Father in heaven.”
With this address, Christ aims to stir
in our hearts a childlike awe and trust
because through Christ God has become our Father.
God, our Father, loves us and desires what is best for us.
God, our Father, answers our prayers.
So let us come with reverence and confidence,
trusting in our Father’s mercies through Jesus Christ.

—based on Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 120

COMMISSIONING: *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

 **COMMISSION HYMN 379** *Take My Life and Let it Be*

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Every Day I Will Bless You*

 *Please stand if you are able.*