

**Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026**

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

John Steinginga

Let us worship God, who has done great things.
We rejoice in our God, who made a way
through the desert of this world.
Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy
to flow in the wasteland.
We are the people God has formed through Christ;
we worship him, and we rejoice!
Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
We praise God for the grace that has saved us.
Alleluia! We rejoice!

—based on Isaiah 43:19-21

 **INVOCATION**

John Steinginga

All-knowing and all-caring God,
we gather this day drained by another week.
We are like a parched desert, empty and in need of replenishment.
Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit,
and bathe us in your streams of living water,
that our lives might acknowledge and worship you
to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. **Amen!**

—based on John 4:13-14; 7:37-38

 **OPENING HYMN 17**

Ye Servants of God

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

John Steinginga

For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.
In overflowing wrath for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,
says the Lord, your Redeemer.
Let us confess our sins to almighty God.

—based on Isaiah 54:7-8, NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

John Steinginga

O Christ,
out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
You are our eternal hope;
you are patient and full of mercy;
you are generous to all who call upon you.

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness,
you have taken away our sins.
On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions
and were bruised for our iniquities.

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, obedient unto death,
source of all comfort,
our life and our resurrection,
our peace and reconciliation:

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you,
hope of all who die for you,
and joy of all the saints:

Save us, Lord.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

grant us peace. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John Steinginga

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Receive the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

—based on 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 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 As God's dear children, then, take him as your pattern,
and follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up for us as an offering and a
sweet-smelling sacrifice to God.

—Ephesians 5:1-2, NJB

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Hear My Prayer
Robin Miller

Coleman



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 *(Responsively)*

Almighty God, you have given us everything.
Not only did you create us, but you provide for our every need.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.

Your love endures forever.

When we turned away from you, you reached down to us.
You lifted us up and freed us through the gift of your Son.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.

Your love endures forever.

You are with us always. You watch over our coming and our going.
Your Holy Spirit guides us and leads us every step of our lives.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.

Your love endures forever.

For your abundant grace we give you thanks.
Gratefully we offer the gifts you first gave us.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.

Your love endures forever.

Use our time, our talents, and our tithes for your glory.
May it bless others with hope, peace, and joy. **Amen.**



PASSING OF THE PEACE

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



PREPARATION HYMN 59

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

PROCLAIMING: *God speaks to us through His Word*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, you have spoken to us through your Son.
Let your written Word now be spoken and heard by each of us.
Give us ears to hear and hearts to understand,
that we may not refuse your calling or ignore your voice.

May we all be taught by you through your powerful Word.
Bring our every thought captive to obeying Christ,
to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING *Ephesians 4:17-32*

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self,^[a] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

SERMON *“A Life That is Worthy”*
 Rev. Dan Stewart

HYMN OF RESPONSE 375 *Jesus Calls Us*

RESPONDING: *We respond to God’s Word*

PROFESSION OF FAITH (In Unison)

**God was pleased, in his eternal purpose,
to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son,
to be the mediator between God and human beings.
As the mediator, he is the prophet, priest, and king,
the head and Savior of the church, the heir of all things,
and the judge of the world.
God gave to him, from all eternity,
a people to be his seed and to be by him, in time,
redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.
The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself—
which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up to God—
has fully satisfied the justice of his Father.
He purchased not only reconciliation but also an everlasting inheritance
in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father has given to him.**

—from Westminster Confession (MESV), Chap. VIII, Sec. 1, 5

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O Jesus, you know the anguish of our human lives.
As one who sees the pain of those who suffer,
bring comfort, peace, and strength.

As one who has experienced the agony
and tears of losing loved ones,
comfort all who grieve.
As one who wept over the faithlessness of your people,
send your Spirit to correct us in our unfaithfulness.
As one who understands the agony of those who have been deserted,
stand alongside those who feel alone and abandoned today.
As one who was once forsaken by all others,
give hope and assurance to those who feel rejection.
As one who knows the ravages of violence,
bring peace and healing to those who are tortured by enemies.
You, our Lord, have offered up prayers with loud cries and tears;
hear us when we do the same.
We approach your throne of grace with boldness.
May we receive mercy and grace in our time of need. **Amen.**

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

 **COMMISSION HYMN 349** *Trust and Obey*

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

May the God of peace
himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound
and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—1 Thessalonians 5:23, NRSV

POSTLUDE

 *Please stand if you are able.*