

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT + MARCH 8, 2026

## *761 ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME*

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78

Text: Public domain

***(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)***

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

*INTROIT*

Psalm 84:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

**C** **Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.  
How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts!  
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the  
LORD;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living  
God.  
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the  
swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay**

her young,

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessèd are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

*KYRIE*

152

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

### *SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY*

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
- O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, chapter 17.

<sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it,

and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*PSALM*

Psalm 95:6–9

**<sup>6</sup>Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

**<sup>7</sup>For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.**

**Today, if you hear his voice,**

**<sup>8</sup>do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

**<sup>9</sup>when your fathers put me to the test  
and put me to the proof, though they had seen  
my work.**

**<sup>6</sup>Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

*EPISTLE*

Romans 5:1–8

**A** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 5.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love

for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(Stand)*

*VERSE (LENT)*

LSB 157

**C** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

*HOLY GOSPEL*

John 4:5–30, 39–42

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>5</sup>Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.  
<sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was

from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup>There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup>(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, give

me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all

things.” <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” <sup>28</sup>So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup>“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” <sup>30</sup>They went out of the town and were coming to him. . . .

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

823 *MAY GOD BESTOW ON US HIS GRACE*

1 May God bestow on us His grace,  
With blessings rich provide us;  
And may the brightness of His face  
To life eternal guide us,  
That we His saving health may know,  
His gracious will and pleasure,  
And also to the nations show  
Christ's riches without measure  
And unto God convert them.

2 Thine over all shall be the praise  
And thanks of ev'ry nation;  
And all the world with joy shall raise  
The voice of exultation.  
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,  
Nor suffer sin to flourish;  
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word  
Their souls to feed and nourish,  
In righteous paths to keep them.

△ 3 O let the people praise Thy worth,  
In all good works increasing;  
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,  
Thy Word is rich in blessing.  
May God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit bless us!  
Let all the world praise Him alone,  
Let solemn awe possess us.  
Now let our hearts say, “Amen!”

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.

Text: Public domain

*SERMON*

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH*

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

*PREFACE*

LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

*SANCTUS*

LSB 161

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

LSB 161

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and

preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### *THE WORDS OF OUR LORD*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

*LORD'S PRAYER*

**C** **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*

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

*AGNUS DEI*

LSB 163

**C** 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.

*430 MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN*

1 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?

2 He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend,  
My friend indeed,  
Who at my need  
His life did spend!

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683

Text: Public domain

## *423 JESUS, REFUGE OF THE WEARY*

1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended,  
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;

Yet upon the cross extended,  
You have borne the pain of all.

2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,  
See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us  
Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us  
Calms the sinner's deep distress.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning  
To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never  
From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever,  
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.

Text: Public domain

**C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;  
Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which  
You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:  
A light to reveal You to the nations and the  
glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to  
the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
forever. Amen.

*POST-COMMUNION COLLECT*

**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You  
have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and  
we implore You that of Your mercy You would  
strengthen us through the same in faith toward  
You and in fervent love toward one another;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be  
gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you  
peace.
- C** **Amen.**

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*

855 *FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WOMEN* sts. 1, 10, 3–4

- 1 For all the faithful women  
Who served in days of old,  
To You shall thanks be given;  
To all, their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness  
In tasks Your wisdom gave.  
To You their lives bore witness,  
Proclaimed Your pow'r to save.

- 10 **The Woman at the Well**  
Recall the outcast woman

With whom the Lord conversed;  
Christ gave her living water  
To quench her deepest thirst.  
Like hers, our hearts are yearning;  
Christ offers us His Word.  
Then may our lips be burning  
To witness to our Lord.

***John 4:1–42***

3 O God, for saints and servants,  
Those named and those unknown  
In whom through all the ages  
Your light of glory shone,  
We offer glad thanksgiving  
And fervent prayer we raise  
That, faithful in Your service,  
Our lives may sing Your praise.

△ 4 All praise to God the Father!  
All praise to Christ the Son!  
All praise the Holy Spirit,  
Who binds the Church in one!

With saints who went before us,  
With saints who witness still,  
We sing glad Alleluias  
And strive to do Your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007, alt.

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