Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025

765 God Moves in a Mysterious Way

1 God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

2 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
Faith sees a smiling face.

3 His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding ev'ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow'r.

4 Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

5 You fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and will break
In blessings on your head.

Text: William Cowper, 1731–1800, alt.
Text: Public domain

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.**

Introit

Psalm 5:4–8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.
For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.
The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
you hate all evildoers.
You destroy those who speak lies;
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.
I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.
Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.
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.
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Kyrie

LSB 168

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A 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.**
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A 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.**

Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 33:7–20*

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Hebrews 12:2*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle Reading *1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse (Lent) *LSB 173*

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 Reading *Luke 13:1–9*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,
May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing,
Rich in love and joy and peace.

2 Laden branches freely bearing
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,
Patience, kindness, gentleness.

3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master,
Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster,
Goodness, faith, and self-control.

4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,
May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending,
Heaven's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024
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Sermon "Righteous or Wicked" Ezekiel 33:7-20

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✢ everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory *LSB 176*

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Prayer of the Church

P …Lord, in your mercy:
C **Hear our prayer.**
P …through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 179*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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.

Benediction *LSB 183*

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.**

974 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive *sts. 1–2, 4, 6–7*

1 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

2 We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

4 I, a sinner, come to Thee
With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me;
Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
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Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book
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