Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026

693 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace

1 O Holy Spirit, grant us grace
That we our Lord and Savior
In faith and fervent love embrace
And truly serve Him ever.
The hour of death cannot bring loss
When we are sheltered by the cross
That canceled our transgressions.

2 Help us that we Thy saving Word
In faithful hearts may treasure;
Let e'er that Bread of Life afford
New grace in richest measure.
O make us die to ev'ry sin,
Each day create new life within,
That fruits of faith may flourish.

3 And when our earthly race is run,
Death's bitter hour impending,
Then may Thy work in us begun
Continue till life's ending,
Until we gladly may commend
Our souls into our Savior's hand,
The crown of life obtaining.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851–1929, 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 84:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

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

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 *Exodus 17:1–7*

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 *Romans 5:1–8*

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Solo: In Christ Alone

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 *John 4:5–26*

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

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

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

Sermon 'On the Rock' Exodus 17:1-7

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.**

429 We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died *sts. 1–4, 6*

1 **We sing the praise of Him who died,**
Of Him who died upon the cross.
The sinner's hope let all deride;
For this we count the world but loss.

2 **Inscribed upon the cross we see**
In shining letters, "God is love."
He bears our sins upon the tree;
He brings us mercy from above.

3 **The cross! It takes our guilt away;**
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day
And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.

4 **It makes the coward spirit brave**
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes the terror from the grave
And gilds the bed of death with light;

6 **To Christ, who won for sinners grace**
By bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forever and forevermore.

Text (sts. 1–4): Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855; (st. 6): Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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