

Sunday, March 23, 2025
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome
Family Life and Work
Family Celebrations
Lighting of the Christ Candle:
Acknowledgement of the Land:

Introit: Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

MV 18

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a loving sanctuary for you.**

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Lenten Reading:

One: Today is the third Sunday in the Christian season of Lent.

Two: We continue our journey with Jesus towards Jerusalem. We hear His third saying from the Cross.

One: After we hear Christ's words, you are invited to spend a few moments pondering what these words may have to say to you.

Two: From John 19: 25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (~10 SECONDS~)

One: As we extinguish this candle, we reflect on how, through Christ, we receive a new family. Like all families, we have joys and struggles. Lord, grant us patience to be with one another in all times.

THE CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Two: Loving God, grant us patience and grace enough to be true members of your family, the Church. Make us faithful in all things. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Waiting

VU 117

**Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.**

**2 Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.**

**3 Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.**

**5 Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
*Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.**

Prayer of Approach:

Holy Lord, we come into your presence today with praise in our hearts and hope in our souls. In this time that is set aside, may we hear your word to us today. Bless us through your Holy Spirit, and help us to grow in faith as you nurture us in word, song, and prayer. We ask this in the strong and saving name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. Hear us now as we say the words which He has taught us,

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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 for ever and ever. Amen**

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 1 - 9

Children's Time:

Gradual Hymn: Come, We That Love

VU 715

**1 Come, we that love the Lord,
 and let our joys be known,
 join in a song with sweet accord,
 and thus surround the throne.**

**2 Let those refuse to sing
 who never knew our God;
 but children of the heavenly King,
 may speak their joys abroad.**

**3 The hill of Zion yields
 a thousand sacred sweets
 before we reach the heavenly fields,
 or walk the golden streets.**

**4 Then let our songs abound,
 and every tear be dry;
 we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
 to fairer worlds on high.**

We Listen

Gospel Reading: Luke 13: 1 - 9

Meditation: "Bearing Fruit"

We Respond

Musical Offering: A Kyrie for Our Time

Offertory: Give Thanks

**Give thanks, with a grateful heart,
 Give thanks, to the Holy One,
 Give thanks because He's given
 Jesus Christ, His Son.
 And now let the weak say, I am strong.
 Let the poor say, I am rich because of what**

The Lord has done for us.

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Closing Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

VU 651

**1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

Benedictions and Commissioning

Choral Benediction: [Go Now in Peace](#)

by Besing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**