



Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (ELW 772)

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (ELW p. 147)

PSALM: Psalm 95

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. ²Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

³For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. ⁴In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice! ⁸"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

⁹There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works. ¹⁰Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.' ¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.' "

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of acceptance, teach us humility, compassion, and a willingness to listen and learn from others. When the world promotes misunderstanding, help us sow seeds of peace and unity. Give us the strength and courage to go out of ways and interact with others who have been shunned by society. For you are a God who is not confined by conventions and walls. In your name we pray. Amen.

Word

LET THE CHILDREN COME...

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the LORD among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

A reading from Exodus.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?”

³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.”

Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

A reading from Romans.

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

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

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus 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."

¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” ²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”

⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They 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 truly the Savior of the world.”

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON - SARA GOODMAN

HYMN OF THE DAY

Build Us Up, Lord (ELW 670)

APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 152)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

PRAYER RESPONSE

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (ELW 751)

God of living water, send your church beyond boundaries to proclaim your grace. May its witness be a source of refreshment for thirsty souls. Strengthen our voices, that all people can know and believe that Jesus is truly the savior of the world.

God of living water, protect from pollution or misuse all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams (*local water sources may be named*). Bless the work of those who dig wells and those who advocate for access to clean water, that all people and animals have enough to drink.

God of living water, open the hearts of leaders and authorities, that they hear the cries of the suffering and act with compassion toward them. Bring peace to disputed lands and bring reconciliation to people divided by race, culture, or nationality.

God of living water, mend the hearts of those who grieve broken relationships, whether by conflict, abuse, divorce, or death. Draw near to all who are ill (*especially*). Assure those questioning your presence in the midst of doubt or suffering.

God of living water, renew us in the promises of baptism. Join us together in worship, fellowship, and sharing your good news. Embolden us to serve others and to work for justice and peace.

God of living water, we thank you for those who endured suffering and who now boast in the glory of God, *especially* Kynlee, Mark, Lyla, Rob, Ron, and those we name now in our hearts...

Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts and give us peace as we live in the hope of our salvation.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (ELW 751)

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

by Catelyn Goodman & Brenna Schuler, "Sanctuary"

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ☩ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. Amen.

SENDING SONG

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (ELW 843)

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 155)

Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God.

Ministry & Mission Information

Large Print Bulletins

If you struggle reading this, the words on the screen, your pew hymnal or pew Bible, we have large print bulletins available which include the full service order of today's worship (except songs). We also have in-ear speakers for hearing assistance. Ask an usher if you are in need.

Thank You...

Catelyn Goodman and Brenna Schuler for their special music provided today.

Sara Goodman for leading us in worship today while Pastor Karl is away.

Prayer Concerns

Kynlee Pengilly, Mark Schneider, Lyla Johnson, Rob Field and Ron Peterson.

Lent

Mid-week Lenten services at ULC will be Wednesdays at 7pm. Midweek Lenten meals will be served at 6pm. Thank you to those who have signed up to help!

Our Lenten theme is "Living Well" and explores what a balanced, healthy life in Christ looks like. Topics are introduced each Sunday, with additional content the following Wednesday.

Sunday night community Lenten services at 7pm; United Methodist will host tonight. ULC will host the service March 22.

Last Sunday, March 8

42 disciples were sent out from worship in God's name to make a difference and \$2,249 was given to support our ministry.

Table Talks for 9th-12th Graders

Gather at church over lunch, Wednesdays in Lent, through April 1. Pizza and beverages will be provided. We'll meet promptly at 12:15 and dismiss with time to get back to school on time. **RSVP if you are coming, by texting Pastor Karl at 651-955-1896** by 11am that Wednesday morning. Carpool with ULC youth without a vehicle, bring a friend!

Bishop Nomination

ELCA congregations in our Eastern North Dakota Synod had until February 27 to submit nominations of ELCA pastors for our next synod bishop.

At spring synod conference assemblies, delegates will vote on 14 candidates who have accepted nominations. Our Grafton conference assembly will meet at 2pm, March 29 at Park River Bible Camp, to vote on the names submitted in our synod for going forward. We are still looking for two additional lay representatives from ULC for the March 29 assembly.

Cake Auction

After worship, April 5. Proceeds support VBS (which will be May 26-29) and summer Bible camp opportunities. Sunday school families are asked to bring an item and stay for the auction.

Boys' Blue Jeans Needed

The Domestic Violence & Abuse Center is in need of boys blue jeans (all sizes). If you have any to offer, you may place them in the orange basket in the narthex.

Weather Cancellation Notice

If inclement weather should arise, Pastor and Council President will make any decisions to cancel worship by 7:00 AM Sunday morning. A post will be made on our Facebook page. TV (WDAZ) and radio (KNDK) will also be notified.

Cross-Generational Learning

We will have Sunday school for all ages next Sunday, with the topic of the Apostles' Creed. These cross-generational Sunday school learning hours are for: children who are in Sunday school; parents; grandparents; adults without kids or who are empty-nesters. Everyone is invited!

Living Well Socially... Today we hear the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. The woman goes from being socially isolated from Jesus and others, to hearing his love for her as a person, resulting in confession and witness. Jesus knows us and loves us, and desires that we live in community with one another for our health, and so that we can live and share the gospel.

Offering Envelopes

2020 offering envelopes are available and may be picked up in the fellowship hall.

Choice Dollars

Are you a Thrivent Financial member eligible to direct Choice Dollars? Thrivent members have until the end of March to direct their 2019 dollars.

Egg Hunting

For ten years, ULC hosted a community Easter egg hunt, the Saturday before Easter. The event grew and flourished under Andrea Jacobson's leadership and truly was an event for the community and surrounding area. For this event to continue at United, we are in need of new individuals to step into leadership in the planning and implementation of the event.

If you are interested, please contact Andrea Jacobson. She will not be in charge but is happy to mentor anyone who assumes leadership of the event.

Today's Faith and Care Leaders

Reader: Dale Klein
Greeters: Jim & Shannon Nuelle family
Ushers: Ted & Linda Dahl
Acolytes: Cora Badding & Meredith Romfo
Projectionist: Gage Goodman
Coffee: Terry & Janet Jacobson
Organists: Kathie Johnson & Lisa Schuler

Next Sunday's Leaders

Reader: Dale Klein
Greeter: Terry Jacobson
Ushers: Edwin Olson & Duane Olson
Acolyte: Victor Long
Projectionist: Xavier Breddin
Coffee: Betty Nelson
Music provided by the ULC Praise Band

The Week Ahead at ULC

Today: 7PM Community Lenten Worship at Langdon Methodist church
Monday: 6PM Church Council meeting, 7-8:30PM Lisa Schuler piano recital
Tuesday: 10AM Rachel Circle, 12PM Writer's Group
Wednesday: 12:15PM Youth Table Talks, 6PM Midweek Lenten Supper
7PM Midweek Lenten Worship in Fellowship Hall
Thursday: 9AM Mom's Group, 12PM Al-Anon
Friday: 6PM Agnes/Messner wedding rehearsal
Saturday: 4PM Agnes/Messner wedding
Next Sunday: 9AM Cross-Generational Sunday School for all ages
10AM Contemporary Worship
7PM Community Lenten Worship here at ULC

Name(s) _____		
Email _____	Phone _____	
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____

- I/we received communion today (please indicate at least annually)
- I contributed my offering with Bill Pay through my bank
- Prayers requested/answered:
- I would like a Pastor to call regarding:

Today, I am a

- Member
- First Time Visitor
- Second Time Visitor
- Regular Visitor

- Please send me information about membership in United Lutheran Church
- I am a member of another church. Where?

What brought you to United today?