

March 23, 2025

Lent 3

Welcome and Announcements

Time of Gathering

Prelude: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* - Anna Laura Page,
arr. Lowell Mason

Call to Worship: (inspired by Psalm 119)

O God, you are righteous

Transform us by your Word!

Your judgments are upright

Transform us by your Word!

Your precepts are unforgettable

Transform us by your Word!

Give us understanding and we will live

Re-form us, reconcile us,

Transform us by your Word!

Opening Hymn: *Praise to the living God* #8

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,

Whose word brought forth the myriad suns

and set the worlds in flight;

Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,

Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,

Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere

the first faint seeds of life;

**Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, towards God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.**

**Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life,
the sacred and profane.**

**God toils where-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.**

**Praise to the living God, around, within, above
Beyond the grasp of human mind,
but whom we know as love.**

**In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strive,
May we bear witness to the Way, O source and Goal of life.**

Time of Confession and Prophetic Action

Prayer of Confession:

**God of love and justice, we long for peace within and peace
without. We long for harmony in our world, for serenity in
the midst of struggle, and for commitment to each other's
growth. We long for the day when our whole earth will be a
dwelling place for your love. In longing we confess that we
are often anxious; we do not trust each other, and we harbor
violence. We can be unwilling to take the risks that love
requires. Look upon us with kindness and grace. Ruse in
our lives and in all the world; show us how to walk in your
paths, following the Way of Jesus Christ. Amen**

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria #758 (Spanish/English)

¡Gloria, gloria, gloria en las alturas a Dios! (repeat)

Y en la tierra paz para aquellos que ama Dios. (repeat)
Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest, (repeat)
And on earth be peace to all people with whom God is pleased. (repeat)

Time of Prayer

Christ be with you
And also with you
Silent and Spoken Prayer
Lord's Prayer:

**Our [Father/Mother/Creator] who art in Heaven,
hallowed by 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. Let us not fall into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

Time of Reflection

Luke 15:1-32 (Psalm 119:167-176)

Hymn: *O God How we have Wandered* #202

**O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.
And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.**

**In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.**

Meditation: *Sought by God*

Time of Offering

Offertory: *Oh How He Loves You and Me* - Kurt Kaiser, arr.
Bryce Inman

Doxology:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Dedication

Time of Commissioning

Closing Hymn: *Amazing Grace* #547

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

Benediction and Commissioning

Postlude: *With Verdure Clad* (from "The Creation") - Joseph Haydn, arr. Carlo Tonelli