

Lutheran Church of the
Redeemer
Gastonia, NC

Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023

Opening Choral Voluntary

God So Loved the World
Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larson

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as able.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the minister begins:

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that do not seek your will:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For misuse of human relationships, for our unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

C: **have mercy on us.**

P: For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

C: have mercy on us.

P: For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

C: have mercy on us.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into light.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn 358 (green hymnal)

Glories of Your Name are Spoken

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

The Kyrie (p. 12, blue hymnal)

Sue Keller, leader

The word "Kyrie" is the Greek word for "Lord." It is also the Greek title for a liturgical prayer petitioning God's intervention to "have mercy" (Eleison) in the affairs of the church and the world. We will be singing the Kyrie throughout the season of Lent.

The musical score consists of two systems of vocal lines. The first system has two staves: the top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. For the Lord, have mer - cy." The second system also has two staves: the top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va-tion, let us pray to the".

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be-ing of the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their

C Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

C A - men

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

C: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Children's Message (*Children under the age of 3 may return to the nursery following the children's message; other children may go with the adult leader for Children's Church.*)

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7

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?"

Psalm 95

L: ¹Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

C: ²Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

L: ³For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

C: ⁴In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

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

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

L: 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!

C: ⁸**"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

L: ⁹There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

C: ¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

L: ¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'"

Second Reading Romans 5:1-11

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.

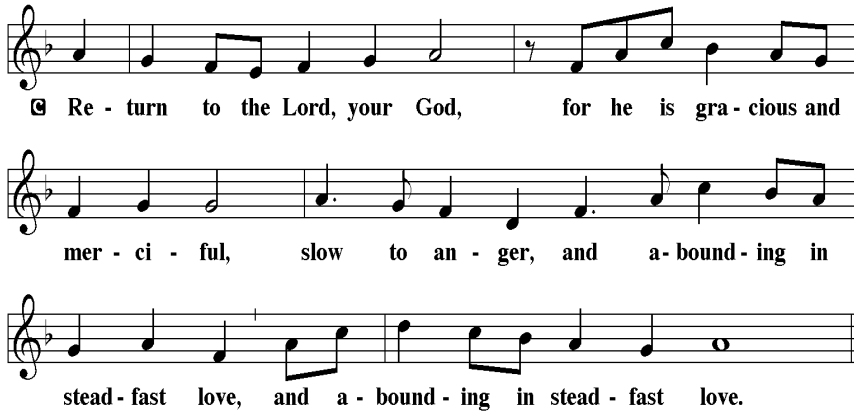
(after the readings)

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated for the Lenten verse and reading of the Gospel.

Lenten Verse (p. 63, green hymnal)



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to John (4:5-42)

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵Jesus 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.”

(after the reading)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

(time for reflection)

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day 471 (W&R)

As the Deer (vs. 1 & 3)

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you. *refrain*

refrain: You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king;
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything! *refrain*

The Apostles' Creed

A: God has made us his children through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the People

Each petition ends:

A: Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

Please be seated.

Offering of Financial Gifts *It is our faithful giving that enables the mission and ministries of this congregation to continue. We will be bringing our offering forward to the altar as a sign of our thankfulness to God.*

Anthem

At Calvary

Mary McDonald

Years I spent in vanity and pride, caring not my Lord was crucified.
Not knowing that it was for me He died on Calvary.

By God's Word at last my sin I learned; then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,
Until my guilty soul imploring turned to Calvary.

Mercy there was great and grace was free. Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary.

Now I've given to Jesus everything. Now I gladly own Him as my King.
Now my raptured soul can only sing of Calvary!

O the love that drew salvation's plan! O wondrous grace that brought it down to man!
O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary.

Mercy there was great and grace was free. Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary.

Please stand as able.

Offertory Response 686 (ELW)

We Give Thee but Thine Own (vs. 1 & 4)



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Invitation to Communion

P In this meal we receive the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Please be seated.

Communion will be by intinction. *You are invited to Holy Communion where Christ has promised to be present offering eternal love and forgiveness. Non-communicating children are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you do not wish to partake of the Sacrament, simply remain seated when your row is directed to the altar. We will bring communion to you if that is helpful.*

Communion Hymns

125 (TFF)

*Eat This Bread (Choir will sing the verses,
congregation will join in the refrain):*

refrain: Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

474 (ELW)

Bread of Life from Heaven (next page)

772 (blue hymnal)

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Bread of Life from Heaven

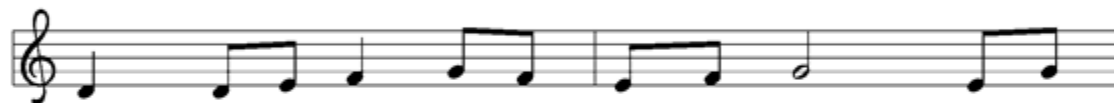
Refrain



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
- 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with

Refrain



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you in faith and keep you in his grace today and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

Benediction

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.**

Sending Hymn 343 (green hymnal)

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary

DMH

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

1915 S. New Hope Road Gastonia, NC 28054

704-865-6152 Rev. Jeff Lindsay, Pastor

email: redeemerchurch@bellsouth.net website: www.redeemergastonia.org

Our services are live streamed on the church's website – www.redeemergastonia.org; on our Facebook page, and also on YouTube – search Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Gastonia.

An Orange Ribbon is around the candle by the Lamp of Knowledge stained glass window and is placed there to remind us to pray for indigenous people around the world and all who are of a different origin than ourselves.

On this Heart Health Sunday, stop by the tables in the narthex for materials on heart health. Our Health & Healing Team are providing blood pressure screenings today.

All Youth are invited to come today at 4 p.m. for a service project. We will be assembling personal care kits for the needy. Plan to stay for the meal and Lenten worship service.

Congratulations to Jeff and Brooke Martin on the birth of a baby girl born March 8. Mother and baby are both doing well.

Redeemer Ramblers – Ramblers will meet at the Gastonia Greenway Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. (weather permitting).

Please return this afternoon for our Sunday Evening Meals and Lenten Worship. Thank you to the Choirs for hosting today's meal. Come at 5 p.m. for soup and sandwich! The Worship Service begins at 6:00. See the next page for the complete Lenten schedule.

The Lenten bible study, *Death and Resurrection in the Bible*, continues this Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m. Join us!

A CPR Certification Class will be offered here at the church on Wednesday, March 22, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cost is \$35. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the window of the church office. See Corky Wells or Donna Marquardt for more information.

WELCA is sponsoring a diaper/wipes drive for Cameron and Sarah Stilwell, who had premature twins in November. Bring in diapers (size 2 & 3) and wipes during March. Place your items in the bins in the narthex.

On Easter Sunday the Lenten Cross in the sanctuary will be transformed as we cover it with flowers to celebrate the Resurrection. Please plan to bring fresh cut flowers with you to church on Easter Sunday morning.

Christ in Our Home booklets are available in the narthex.

Please remember in prayer the following:

Members of the congregation: Mike Woody, Dana Seagle, Gail Broussard, Jerry Seagle, Joyce Hartsell, Janice Fowler, Bob Gronstal, Steve Mack, John Salsburg, Betsy Easter

Daughter of: Louise Rabb (Audrey Rabb)

Son of: John & Kay Blough (Bruce Blough)

Sister of: Doris Vlaservich (Joyce Gerald) Jim Pressley (Pattie Massey)

Daughter-in-law of: John & Kay Blough (Jenny Blough)

Niece of: Effie Rogers (Shawna Miller) Sue Keller (Sydney Hiester)
Donna Marquardt (Kim Abernathy)

Those who are homebound: Ann Lanier, Sam Craig, Nancy Laver

Friends of the congregation: LeaAnn Buckwell, Bishop Tim Smith, The Elium Family, Otis Davis

**Please let us know when it is time to remove a name from our prayer list.*



The "Be the Light" campaign for Lutheran Services Carolinas continues throughout the month of March. LSC seeks to raise \$1,000,000 to establish the *For the Children Endowment* that will provide funds to support programs for children in the future. See the bulletin insert for more info. The campaign culminates with a dedication Sunday on March 26 when we will ask that you consider a declaration of intent for the next three years.

LENT 2023

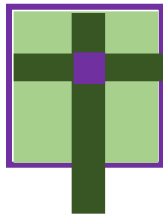
LENTEN MEALS & HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE *"Darkness to Light"*

Meals 5 p.m. Prayer Service 6 p.m.
Sundays February 26 through March 26

<u>Date</u>	<u>Provided by</u>	<u>Menu</u>
March 12	Choirs	Soup & Sandwich
March 19	WELCA	BBQ
March 26	Deriter Club	Crab Cakes

You are invited to write down your prayer concerns and attach them to the prayer cross located to the left of the handbell loft.

Lent is a time of focus on prayer and spiritual disciplines. Consider how you might move towards deeper discipleship during this Lenten season. Devotional materials are available in the narthex of the church to assist you in your Lenten journey.



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