



Third Sunday In Lent
March 8, 2026



the good news is..

together, the impossible
is possible

The Gathering

*The assembly's parts are in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who hunger and all who seek hope.

We come to the One who feeds us with love.

When we feel there is not enough, God provides more than we can imagine.

We trust in God's abundance and care.

God gathers us, blesses us, and calls us to share.

We come to worship with grateful hearts.

GATHERING SONG

Here is Bread

ELW 483



1) Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
2) Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
3) Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment



by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here. _____

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

we confess that we often live with a mindset of scarcity.

We worry there will not be enough

and we hold back instead of trusting your abundance.

Forgive us, renew us, and fill our hearts with your overflowing love, that we may live with joy and generosity. Amen.

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, loved, and made new.
Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Generous God, you feed your people with more than enough and turn our small offerings into abundant blessings. When we feel overwhelmed by scarcity or fear, teach us to trust in your provision, to share what we have with open hearts, and to see your goodness at work among us. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Word

FEEDING THE 5,000

Inspired by Mark 6:32-44 and Written by Rev. Anna Strickland

In Mark 6:32–44, Jesus feeds a large crowd with five loaves and two fish, showing God’s abundant care when there seems to be not enough.

The gospel according to Mark 6:32-44.

Glory to you, O Lord.

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Generous One, you take what is small and make it enough. Teach your church to trust in your abundance and to share freely, so that all who hunger may be welcomed and fed. Form us to be communities of compassion and generosity. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Creator of all, you provide for every living thing. Bless the earth that yields its harvest, renew damaged ecosystems, and strengthen all who work to ensure food, water, and resources are shared wisely and justly. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Just One, you care for crowds and individuals alike. Guide leaders to act with humility and compassion, and help them to address hunger, poverty, and inequality so that all may have what they need to live with dignity. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Compassionate One, you see the needs we carry. Feed all who hunger in body, mind, or spirit. Comfort those who are sick, grieving, or struggling, especially those we now name out loud or silently in our hearts. *(30 seconds of silence)*.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Welcoming One, you gather us in community and send us out to serve. Help us to notice where there is need around us, and give us courage to offer what we have with open hearts and trusting spirits. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Eternal One, your abundance never ends. We give thanks for all who have gone before us in faith and now rest in your peace. Keep us in your care until we are gathered into your everlasting feast. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, who brings abundance and new life. **Amen.**

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Meal

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, receive these gifts and our lives, offered in this season of renewal. Use them to share your good news — bringing hope, healing, and justice to your world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call us in this holy season of Lent to turn our hearts toward You, to seek renewal through repentance, and to walk in the way of Christ.

In great love, you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy Spirit, embolden us to bring your justice and peace to all the earth, sharing the gift Christ has shared with us. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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 THE TABLE

Come forward now - God's feast is ready!

COMMUNION MEDITATION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of hope. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a needy world. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God bless you, Jesus guide you, and the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and joy, now and always. Amen.

SENDING SONG

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

ELW 333

Refrain - All

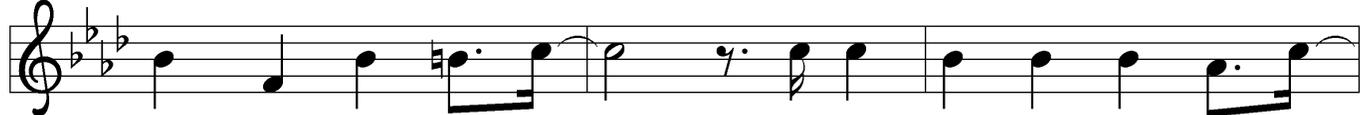


Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

Leader or All

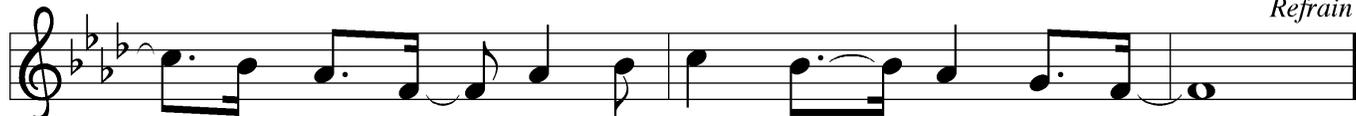


1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum - bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

Refrain



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Trust in the Good News!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Rev. Courtney Geibert Minister of Music: Terry Williams
Pianist: Tony Marriott

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