



Grace Lutheran Church Redcliffe
Service Order For 20th March,
Third Sunday in Lent



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Almighty God,
look upon the heartfelt desires
of your humble servants,
and stretch out your mighty hand
to defend us against all our enemies;
through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: Isaiah 55:6-7

*Turn to the Lord! He can still be found. Call out to God!
He is near. Give up your crooked ways and your evil thoughts. Return
to the Lord our God. He will be merciful and forgive your sins.*

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to the Lord our God. He will be merciful and forgive your sins.**

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LHS 84: There is a green hill far away (click [here](#))

**There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we cannot tell what pains He had to bear;
but we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiven, He died to make us good;
that we might go at last to heaven, saved by His precious blood.**

**There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate of heaven, and let us in.**

**O dearly, dearly has He loved, and we must love Him too,
and trust in His redeeming blood, and try His works to do.**

Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-1895)

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and
repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake
of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and
merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die
for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given
the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes
and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

INTROIT: Psalm 63:1-8

¹You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.

O God, you are my God,
I seek you, my soul thirsts for you.

²I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.

³Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.

⁴I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.

⁵I will be satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

O God, you are my God,
I seek you, my soul thirsts for you.

⁶ On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.

⁷ Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.

O God, you are my God,
I seek you, my soul thirsts for you.

**Glory to the Father
and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray that we live repentant lives.
[silence]

Holy and merciful God,
we thank you for giving your Son Jesus
to die on the cross for us sinners.
Turn us away from our sins
and back to a life of trust in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9 Come to the Lord, who is merciful

⁵⁵ 'Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. ³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. ⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. ⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will

come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.’⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.⁸ ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the LORD.⁹ ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Do not take God’s grace for granted

¹⁰ For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.² They were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.³ They all ate the same spiritual food⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.⁶ Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.’^[a]⁸ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did – and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.⁹ We should not test Christ,^[b] as some of them did – and were killed by snakes.¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them did – and were killed by the destroying angel.¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³ No temptation^[c] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted^[d] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,^[e] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

LENTEN VERSE: PHILLIPIANS 2:8

**Christ humbled Himself,
and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.**

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9 Repent or die!

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

¹³Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²Jesus answered, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.' ⁶Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig-tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, "For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig-tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?" ⁸"Sir," the man replied, "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig round it and fertilise it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

Lord Jesus,
thank you for your kindness and patience to us.
Lead us to repent and produce good fruit in our lives.

Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

AT 345: Nothing but the blood (click [here](#))

**What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**Oh! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know - nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**For my pardon this I see: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing, this my plea: nothing but the blood of Jesus:**

**Oh! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know - nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**Oh! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know - nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**This is all my hope and peace: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness: nothing but the blood of Jesus:**

**Oh! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know - nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

Robert Lowrey Public Domain

SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources (click [here](#))

LHS 426: What a friend we have in Jesus (click [here](#))

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge! Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.**

Joseph Scriven (1820-1886)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The prophet tells us to 'Seek the Lord while he may be found' and to 'call upon him while he is near'. Let us come before God through Jesus Christ our Lord to pray for the church, the world, and those in need.

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for your dear Son, Jesus Christ - that he fulfilled your law perfectly and suffered and died on our behalf. Have mercy on us for his sake, be patient with us for another year, and bring the world to repentance and saving faith in him.

*Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

Have mercy on your church, dear Father. Let it drink from the rock that is Christ, that it may be a fitting and proper gardener in your orchard, leading the world in producing the fruit of repentant faith, holy living, and loving service.

*Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who hunger and thirst, that they may drink from the rock that is Christ and be satisfied. And we pray for those who have plenty, that they find joy in using what they've been given for others.

*Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who are trapped in idolatry - those who've given themselves to sexual immorality, the euphoria of drugs, the endless accumulation of things - that they may drink from the rock that is Christ and find their freedom and delight in him.

*Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

We pray Lord for those who rely on their own strength for life, that they may drink from the rock that is Christ and humbly seek your grace, lest they stumble and fall.

*Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

And finally we pray for those being tested by suffering and temptation, that they may drink from the rock that is Christ and faithfully take the way out of trouble that you always provide. *We pray especially for (insert names).* And meet the needs of all we know to be in want and whom we now name silently in our hearts... *(brief silence)*

*Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.***

Heavenly Father, you have led us through the water of baptism and fed us with your word and sacraments. Hear our prayers and enable us to stand firm on the rock of Christ Jesus your Son, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

God is merciful and forgives your sins.

God is merciful and forgives your sins.

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace, and bear fruit for the Lord

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

LHS 347: Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer (click [here](#))

**Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, 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 now and evermore;
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain whence the living waters flow;
let the fiery, 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.**

**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.**

William Williams (1717-1791) Tr. St. 1: Peter Williams, 1771 Sts. 2,3: William Williams, c. 1772

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

LHS

- 259 Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth* G7
290 O Bread of life from heaven* G3 (*holy communion*)
306 I heard the voice of Jesus say G7
836 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread* G
859 Seek, O seek the Lord, while he is near

AT

- 114 Come my brother, come my sister
137 I heard the voice of Jesus say
179 Come let us eat
479 For living, for dying

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

LHS

- 181 Abide, O dearest Jesus* G5
330 Rock of ages, cleft for me G6
341 Jesus, lead Thou on* G3
342 Watch, my soul, and pray* G4
371 O Jesus, I have promised G5
398 Lord Jesus, think on me G5
426 What a friend we have in Jesus G8

AT

- 251 God sends us his Spirit

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

LHS

From hymns of repentance, 309-320, 850, esp.

- 49 Alone Thou goest forth, O Lord
304 Delay not, delay not, O sinner, draw near

AT

- 6 O Father, my Father
322 We are sorry