

**March 7, 2021**  
**3rd Sunday of Lent**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**PRELUDES**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*  
*Let Us Break Bread Together*

Albin C. Whitworth  
Richard Proulx

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SENTENCES (from Isaiah 55)**

**L:** Let all who thirst come to the waters;

**P:** And let all who are hungry come and eat.

**WELCOMING SONG #506**

*Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*

Copeland

(verse one)

Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring.  
Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing.  
Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done.  
Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone.

(verse two)

Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers appear,  
saints confessing how they wrestled with their guilt, their doubt and fear.  
Peter tells of his denying Christ was ever in his sight;  
Paul relates his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light.

(verse three)

Their sad stories are repeated in a thousand different ways,  
but they share one thing in common; they all end in thanks and praise  
for the host who has invited north and south and east and west  
to converge around this table, where all life is fed and blest.

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**CALL TO CONFESSION (from Psalm 103:8)**

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of great mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turn aside from your way. We are misled by pride, or overcome by fear, or distracted by temptation. We have failed to value what is truly treasure; pursuing instead the things that do not last. God, forgive us; have mercy on us; create a new pathway forward of justice, peace, and righteousness; through Christ our Savior.**

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Isaiah 55:3))**

L: Listen, so that you may live: the steadfast love of the Lord never fails.” In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

P: **Thanks be to God.**

**SONG OF RESPONSE #702**

***Christ Be Beside Me***

Bunessan

(verse two)

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

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**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through this Lenten season and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 15:1-10**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup>“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

***Wash Their Feet***

Choplin

(from *Come Touch the Robe*)

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 15:11-32**

<sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” <sup>20</sup>So he set

off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

## SERMON

*“The Banquet Table”*

Rev. John Wahl

## UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Philippians 2:5-11)

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord. AMEN.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## CALL TO OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*Jesu, meine Freude*

August Reinhard

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SONG OF PREPARATION #506

*Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table*

Copeland

(verse four)

Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised  
by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes  
when he blesses bread and breaks it – truth and manna from above! –  
and then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.

## **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**L:** Lo, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; let those who have no money come and eat.

**P:** God will satisfy our souls with a rich feast, and we will bless the Lord as long as we live.

## **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness help us to share your peace with others and draw ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

### **SENDING SONG #36**

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

Ar Hydy Nos

(verse two)

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.  
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

By Fred Pratt Green

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## **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Little Fugue in F*

Georg Philipp Telemann