**March 4, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

As we gather around the Lord’s Table this morning, we can learn from the progression of the phraseology in the traditional Mass – from *“Lord have mercy,”* to *“Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.”* The message of the cross is mercy, forgiveness, and peace to all who will seek after it. Receive it today.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music Sanctuary** (seated) *Sanctuary*

 **Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.**

 **With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you**. (repeat twice)

 **Worship & Song 3105 In Christ alone** *In Christ alone*

 **Hymnal 95 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** *Old 100th, arr. Sowash*

**Greeting**

Leader: You who are righteous, rejoice in the Lord and be glad!

**People: All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!** *Psalm 32:11 (CEV)*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45 *William Bradbury, arranged by Michael Hassell*

 Yes, Jesus loves me; the Bible tells me so.

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!

**People: God has blessed us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

Pastor: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

**People: Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;**

Pastor: Let them return to the Lord.

**People: Let them return to the Lord. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 127 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah** (standing) *Cwm Rhondda*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.**

**Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
and no weakness from doing it.**

**In your light may we see life clearly and in your service find perfect freedom;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Hymnal 402 Lord, I want to be a Christian** (stanza 4) *Afro-American Spiritual*

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;**

 **Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

 **In my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart**

**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

 Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: And also with you.

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong.

 WORDS AND MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the Sanctuary near the end of the service.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Hymnal 618 Let us break bread together**  (seated)  *Let us break bread*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Joeta D’Este

 10:45 Nathan Jara

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Human wisdom versus the cross

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

 **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. Amen.**

**Celtic Alleluia** **Alleluia** (sing 4 times, standing) *O’Carroll and Walker*

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel

 John 2:13-22 Jesus in Jerusalem at Passover

 **Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Anthem**10:45Jesus loves me *William Bradbury, arr. Michael Hassell*

**Doxology** *Old 100th arranged by Bradley Sowash*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “The Message of the Cross” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**  *The Apostles’ Creed (ecumenical version)*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Worship & Song 3167** 8:30 **Feed us, Lord** (stanza 1, seated) *Feed us*

**Jazz Missa Brevis** 10:45 *Will Todd*

*Kyrie eleison*: Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.

 *Gloria in excelsis*: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God..

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

 Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words. . . )*

Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place we join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

8:30 **Musical Setting B, Hymnal, pp. 18-19**

**People:** **Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

10:45 **Jazz Missa Brevis:** *Sanctus:* Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words . . .)*

As we affirm the mystery of faith:

8:30 **Musical Setting B, Hymnal, p. 20**

 **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

10:45 **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words. . .)*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit,

 One God, to all eternity.

8:30 **Musical Setting B, Hymnal, p. 20**

**Amen.**

10:45 **Amen**

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

 10:45 **Jazz Missa Brevis** *Will Todd*

*Agnus dei:* Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

**Anthem** 10:45 Filled with his voice *Steve Danyew*

**Prayer following Communion**

**God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

 **… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 124 Seek the Lord** (standing) *Hyfrydol, Hymnal 196*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Rosalie Peters in loving memory of her husband Vaughan, his parents George and Helen Peters, and his brother George, and George’s wife Winifred.

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Lizzie Diller Florian in honor of the birthdays of her mother, Sharon Diller, and her husband, Derick Florian.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir, with Joy Crummie, piano; Jeff Nicodemus and Stephen McGough, trumpet; Milt Barney, saxophone; Brian Stahurski, bass; and Subha Das, drums. The presence of the instrumentalists is made possible through contributors to the Friends of Music Fund.

**Greeters 8:30**  Bob and Beverly Festor **10:45**  Patty Siegert and Hazel Cope

**Acolytes** Xavier Sanchez and Cameron Grabowski **Cross Bearer** Max Siegert

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the Sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $30 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $60 for the chancel.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” 20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

**John 2:13-22**

13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.14In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” 17His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”18The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?”19Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?”21But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Fred Siersdorfer, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

Carolyn Dagg, Earl Killian,

David Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

Betty Trout, Virginia (Jinny) Sheppard

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick

PFC Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimm

**In Sympathy**

Sympathy is offered to the family and friends of church member Milton Lutes, who died on February 25. Milton’s life was celebrated at a memorial service at our church this past Thursday. Prayers and condolences may be sent to the family at his daughter’s address:

 Mrs. Marsha Roche

 120 Crestvue Manor Dr.

 Pittsburgh, PA 15228

The congregation offers its sympathy to the family of church member Dr. Charles C. Hohing, who passed away February 20.

Condolences to the family may be sent to his daughter:

 Ms. Leslie Denton

 26 Carleton Dr.

 Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Condolences also are expressed to the family and friends of Marjorie Lewis, who died February 20. Marjorie was remembered in a small committal ceremony in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery last week.