

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 4, 2018 10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "The Wonderful Cross / Beneath the Cross of Jesus / Near the Cross"
arr. Larson

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Silent Prayer and Preparation

* Call to Worship:

In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Come now, all who thirst,

and drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger,

and be filled with good things.

Come now, all who seek,

and be warmed by the fire of love.

* Hymn: "It Is Good to Sing Your Praises"

PH 171

* God's Greeting:

Grace and peace be to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

His mercy endures forever.

O God, come to our assistance.

O Lord, hasten to help us.

* Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank you that we may be together to hear your word of life and hope. You know our life in its deepest recesses. You have not forgotten us; you love us, and again and again you fill the empty hands we stretch toward you. Give us today your light and joy to shine in the midst of the darkness and fear which surrounds us. Do this, we pray, through the suffering and death of your Son Jesus Christ, who took upon himself the curse of death so that we might know you as our mighty fortress. Amen.

* Response: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

PH 469, vv. 3, 4

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession:

I Corinthians 11:27–28

God's Will for Our Lives:

I Peter 2:11–21

Prayer of Confession:

Father in heaven, we live in a hostile world.

We know the absence of peace. We see the innocent victimized. We feel the agony of betrayal. We experience the pain of loneliness.

Yet you call us to live peaceably in such a place.

Forgive us when we hate ourselves and those around us. Forgive us when we do not trust your protection. Forgive us when we seek revenge through gossip and slander. Forgive us when we want control over those close to us. God of grace, give us grace. God of mercy, give us mercy. God of love, give us love.

Silent Prayer and Confession

Minister: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

All: **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

adapted from I Corinthians 15:54b–56;
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 11

Because Jesus died and rose again, we say with great joy:

"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Son of God is called "Jesus," meaning "savior," because he saves us from our sins.

Salvation cannot be found in anyone else; it is futile to look for any salvation elsewhere.

And so we do not look for salvation and security in ourselves, in saints, and anywhere else, lest we by our deeds deny that Jesus is our only savior and deliverer.

Since Jesus is a perfect savior, those who in true faith accept this Savior have in him all we need for salvation.

In Jesus, we are forgiven. We have overcome. May we live in peace and come to the Lord's table in the joy of God's forgiving love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Our Common Faith:

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 11

Choral Anthem: "Come, All Who Thirst"

arr. Hopson

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: "He Leadeth Me"

PH 452

Prayer for Illumination

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave for Children's Church after the prayer.]

Scripture Reading:

Esther 3 (p. 490)

Sermon: *Death Warrant*

Prayer

* Hymn: "Oh, to See the Dawn"

Bulletin pp. 5-6

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "The Power of the Cross / When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

arr. Hayes

* Doxology: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

PH 638

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. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Form for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper:

PH 979

* Apostles' Creed

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Response of Thanksgiving

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Benediction:

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Amen.

Let us go forth and serve the world as those who belong to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

* Response: "There Is a Redeemer"

Bulletin p. 7

* Postlude