



Third Sunday in Lent
Augustana Lutheran
Church
March 23, 2025

Thank you for silencing your mobile device.
An asterisk (*) invites the congregation to stand.

Prelude

Shannon Peterson

GATHERING

Announcements

Announcement of the Day

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

***Opening Hymn** "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" #445

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie** (p.203)

***Prayer of the Day**

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Response to the Reading

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Special Music *Celebration Choir "At the Riverside" — arr. Raney*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Response to the Reading

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** (p.205)

***Gospel Announcement and Spoken Response**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

***Spoken Gospel Response**

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Chuck Meyer

Silence for reflection.

***Hymn of the Day**

“Jesus, Still Lead On” #624 v.1,4

***Apostles’ Creed**

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

***Prayers of Intercession —**

We pray for: Jeanne Alingh; Lily Bodammer; Jackson Bullock; Dan Graben; Terry Heck; Con Heider; Dennis Holton; Lois Irwin; Olivia Kallaos; Steve Kolker; Theresa Krusko; Marlene Levine; Barb Mather; Erika McCarthy; the Moore family; Becky Moos; Candy Noonan-Johnson; Craig Nordaker; Jane Nordaker; Tom Peterson; Clyde Robinson; Dan Robinson; Linda Roth; Shelly Schossow; Dick Sea; Lori Shannon; Marge Swanson; Tony Warstorm; and those affected by disasters and diseases throughout the world. Let us pray for all of the caregivers that give of their time and gentle care for those who are ill.

We also pray for the families of the church: Mike, Constance, and Ingrid Larson; Jerry and Sue Levay; Chris Levine; Jeff, Marlene, and Robyn

Levine; Paul and Kathleen Lindblom.

A: God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

***Sharing of the Peace**

OFFERING

***Offering Prayer**

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

MEAL

***Great Thanksgiving** (p.206)

***Proper Preface**

***Sanctus** (p.207)

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer** (p.208)

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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 Holy Communion**

P: All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God (p.208)

Distribution—*We believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the Supper of our Lord, in the forms of bread and wine. We also believe that admission to the sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper at Augustana Lutheran Church. Receive the bread in your hands. Gluten free hosts are available if you prefer. The wine will be served in a small glass. Grape juice is available if you prefer. Those who do not partake of Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

Distribution Hymns

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”
“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

#623
#726

*Post-Communion Blessing

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

*Post-Communion Prayer

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

*Blessing

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
† bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*Closing Hymn “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” #319 v.1,4

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Shannon Peterson

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GOD’S LOVE MADE REAL!

Today, Sunday, March 23 Worship Leaders—Presiding Minister: Pastor Chuck Meyer; Assisting Minister: Shelley Hexom; Musician: Shannon Peterson; Technical Assistant: Team Levine; Altar Guild: Marilyn Hagberg and Kathie Lindgren; Acolyte: Tyler Welp

Sunday, March 30 Worship Leaders—Presiding Minister: Pastor Chuck Meyer; Assisting Minister: Fred Hexom; Musician: Shannon Peterson; Technical Assistant: Team Iversen; Altar Guild: Marilyn Hagberg and Kathie Lindgren; Acolyte: Alex Hexom

Attendance for Sunday, March 16—62

Lenten Services—Lenten services are being held at the Siouxland Center for Active Generations, 313 Cook St. Sioux City, IA 51103. There are two services on each Wednesday of Lent, one at 12:30pm following the Center's lunch (which costs \$7.00 if you wish to go for that); and one at 6:30pm with treats afterwards.

Stream Wednesday Services Online—Did you know you could stream the Wednesday services during Lent? On Facebook go to <https://facebook.com/unitedlutheran315> and on YouTube <https://youtube.com/@unitedlutheranchurch315> to see the 6:30pm Wednesday services.

Fundraising Notes—We have decided to divide the fundraising into monthly events. That being said, anytime you feel like donating to the HVAC project, we will accept your money!

- ***March Challenge: Anyone who makes a \$500 donation in March will have their name thrown in a basket to win a prize! Anyone who has previously donated \$500, your name will go in the basket. An additional \$500 donation will give you a second chance to win. And don't forget the pickle jar! Everything collected in March will be earmarked for the HVAC***
- *April:* We will have some type of candy sale. Hopefully, the kids in the congregation can use their smiles to sell their goods.
- *May:* A silent auction. We have a couple items already, but if you have any items which we can auction, please let us know. Also, do you have connections with a business who might donate?

We also talked about other things we could do to raise money including bake sales, a dinner, Easter breakfast, a Go Fund Me page, etc. If you have any ideas, please share them with anyone on council. And don't forget the pickle jar! Everything collected in February and March will be earmarked for the HVAC.

Augustana Rummage Sale April 11&12, 2025—It is time to declutter and donate items to the Augustana Rummage Sale, which will be held on Friday, April 11, 2025, from 4 to 7 pm and Saturday, April 12th from 9 am to 2 pm. Take time to clean closets, cupboards, garages, basements and donate any items you no longer need or want! Now is the time to donate furniture, tools, garden supplies, toys, baby items, household items, dishes, etc. that you have wondered what to do with! Any items are accepted! Spread the word and tell your friends and ask them to clean and donate items as well! All proceeds of the sale will go to the HVAC system so the more items the better. The more money raised will help us reach our goal for the new HVAC system. Items can be brought to Augustana between the hours of 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday through Friday. If any items need to be picked up, please call Cindy Welp at 712-253-9536 (we have a truck for big items) or Dick Hettinger for smaller items at 712-253-9536.

Easter Lilies—Easter Lily order forms are now available. Each plant is \$12.00. Orders must be placed by Sunday, April 13, 2025.

March Benevolence—We are collecting personal care products for the Cupboard at 1st United Methodist Church. Items needed are: *Oral care products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, mouth rinses, Band-Aids, cotton swabs and balls, Kleenex, lotion, soaps of all kinds, shampoo, conditioner, razors, wipes, makeup, lip care items, nail maintenance items, feminine hygiene products, baby care items, diaper paste, diapers, wipes, formula, and hair care items*

This week at Augustana

Sunday, March 23, 2025

8:45am Children's Choir
9:00am Adult Choir, Sunday
School, and Confirmation
10:00am Holy Communion

Monday, March 24, 2025

10:00am Piece Corps
5:00pm Just For Kix
6:00pm Beth Moore Bible Study

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

5:00pm Just For Kix

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

12:30pm Lenten Service at the
Senior Center
5:00pm Just For Kix
6:30pm Lenten Service at the
Senior Center

Thursday, March 27, 2025

5:00pm Just For Kix

Next week at Augustana

Sunday, March 30, 2025

8:45am Children's Choir
9:00am Adult Choir, Sunday
School, and Confirmation
10:00am Holy Communion

Monday, March 31, 2025

5:00pm Just For Kix
6:00pm Beth Moore Bible Study

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

5:00pm Just For Kix

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

10:00am Women's Bible Study
12:30pm Lenten Service at the
Senior Center
5:00pm Just For Kix
6:30pm Lenten Service at the
Senior Center

Thursday, April 3, 2025

5:00pm Just For Kix

Welcome to all visitors; we've been expecting you! Please worship with us regularly! If you are looking for a church home and would like to attend a new member class, please check the appropriate box on the Fellowship Register as you sign in. The register can be found in three places in the narthex as you enter the nave. Please sign it and check the appropriate boxes.

There are several ways to find out more about Augustana!

Copies of the *Trumpeter*, Augustana's monthly newsletter, are available in the entryway for visitors. Look for us on the web at www.augustanasc.org. Check us out on Facebook! Augustana Lutheran, Sioux City is the name of our page.

Congregational Mission Statement

A welcoming, caring congregation offering opportunities for
worship, spiritual growth, and fellowship.
We express our faith and love to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

