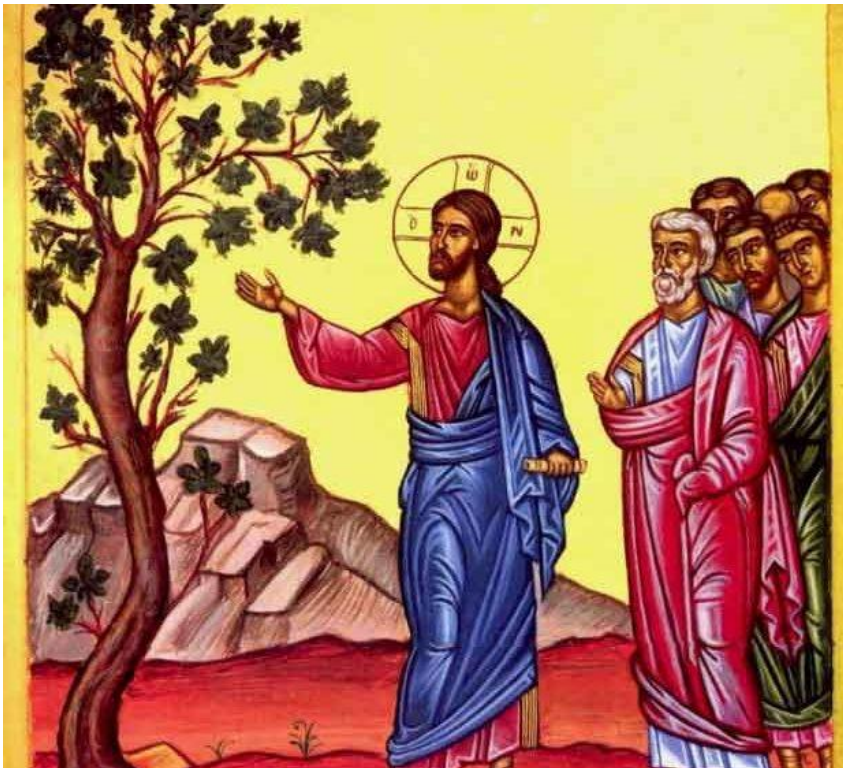




Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship  
March 20, 2022 9:30am



**Rev. Rennie Kaufmann – Pastor    Eileen Young – Music Leader    Karen Kaufmann – Administrator**  
**Miss Esther Kaufmann – Student Ministries Coordinator and Worship Arts Assistant**

**Risen Christ Lutheran Church**  
**46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170**  
**734.453.5252    [www.risenchrist.info](http://www.risenchrist.info)**

**ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION** – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

**OFFERING** – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info)

**A WORD TO OUR GUESTS** – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

**Large Print Bulletins** – Available from an usher.

**Listening Assistance Devices** – Available at the Sound Booth.

**Parent Room** – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

**For Children** – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

## **As We Gather**

How then shall we live? What a profound question for Christians to consider midway through Lent! The Lord has shown His mercy to us, forgiven our sins, and delivered us from death. Then what? What is the focus of our lives? The call of the Readings for this Sunday points us to the repentance that bears the good fruit of God’s kingdom. Like trees that have failed to produce good fruit, the Lord has tended us with His Word, with the warning of the Law and the promise of the Gospel. But if the tree remains unfruitful, the tree will have to be cut down. It is a hard word to hear, but God remains merciful, and most of all, He seeks that we bear the good fruits of faith and repentance in our daily lives.

## **Pre-service Music**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## **Who You Say I Am**

1. Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

***Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am***

2. Free at last  
He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me

***Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am***

***In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am***

**BRIDGE:** I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am

## Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**G** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

## Announcement of the Day

- P** Though the Readings for the Third Sunday in Lent bring warnings to those who refuse the Spirit and remain impenitent, they also promise that God will work in us the healthful Spirit of His grace, forgive our sins, and equip us to bear the good fruits of His kingdom in our lives. From the prophet Ezekiel, we learn that God finds no pleasure in judging the wicked but rejoices in their repentance and faith. From 1 Corinthians, we are warned by Paul against the pride that goes before the fall and assured that in Christ temptation cannot overcome us. In the Gospel, Jesus is confronted with a tragedy from the news and points the hearers to their own repentance and faith, that they may bear the good fruit of His Kingdom.

## Old Testament Reading

*Ezekiel 33:7–20*

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup>“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 8*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.**

<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

**<sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!**

<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**<sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**

<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

**<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**<sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

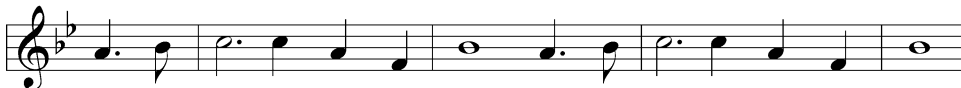
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” Saxophone solo by Jeremy Poegel**

**Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,  
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;  
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.  
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

**The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed (On the Holy Spirit and Sanctification)**

**C** 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.

**P** *What does this mean?*

**C** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

**Verse**

*2 Peter 3:9b, c*

**C** [The Lord] is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Unpacking Luke 13:1-9 – False Beliefs, Repentance, and Second Chances**

1. Making sense out of tragedy... good things happening to "bad" people and bad things happening to "good" people...
2. Some people give Jesus some tragic news and tries to make sense out of it...
3. Sometimes, people, including us, ask the wrong questions, oftentimes founded upon false ideas and false beliefs.
  - a. That group of people had their own preconceived beliefs and ideas as to why the tragedy had happened and really weren't interested in Jesus teaching them.
  - b. Some may have had the false belief that those dead Galileans "got what they deserved" (like the false belief of karma) i.e. good things happening to good people... bad things happening to bad people... all false beliefs...
  - c. Some may have believed the falsehood that no matter the sins and shortcomings of the dead Galileans, they got into Heaven like everyone else does...
  - d. People today still have a false belief that people get into Heaven because they are likable, "nice", do good things, and such... even if they rejected God and never repented...
  - e. So many people really just want to hear that they are alright in God's eyes without the whole going to church thing regularly and living in repentant faith. They often just want to hear that they are just fine and don't need any changing.

- f. Jesus responded to them basically saying that they had the wrong ideas and beliefs about why, how and where those Galileans died... and that they must repent, or they won't just die, they'll perish eternally (the Greek word apolumi).
4. Jesus in His divinity knew and still knows the hearts of everyone. He was tackling the subject of unrepentance. He doesn't want anyone to perish!
5. He warned these proud, stubborn people of the everlasting danger awaiting all people who persist in living proud and unrepentant lives.
6. Parable of the Fruitless Tree
  - a. Jesus taught the same crowd how the Heavenly Father saw them... about the reality of their sinful condition and fruitless faith.
  - b. Jesus was focusing them on His mission and ministry of redemption, renewal, reconciliation, and life.
  - c. Time and time again the Master didn't find any fruit and wanted the tree gone!
  - d. The Vinedresser intercedes on behalf of the fruitless tree and asks for another chance. He offers to do everything for the tree so it can bear fruit.
  - e. Thank God for Jesus the vinedresser who intercedes and does everything needed for people to believe and bear faithful fruit.
7. A fruit of repentant faith is the desire to know and use God's Word as a lens through which to examine ourselves... to see how God sees things. (Look at the Catechism sections on the Ten Commandments, Confession, and Christian Question and Answers)
8. Friends, repentant faith produces the fruit of the Spirit, which is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
9. Understand that humble repentance is not just going through the motions and saying some words. Repentant faith in a Believer's life bears fruit that can be seen, for God's Word teaches that we are known by the fruits we bear! Authentic repentance is to actually turn away from sin and turn toward God.
10. Only the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God, hearing, and learning both His Law and Gospel can break through the walls, the arrogance and pride and change a person... bringing people to humble and real repentance.



## Confession and Absolution

*Psalm 1:6; 5:4, 7, adapt.*

**P** The LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
**C** **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**P** You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with You.  
**C** **Through the abundance of Your steadfast love, I will enter Your house.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

### Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, oh God  
And renew a right spirit within me  
Create in me a clean heart, oh God  
And renew a right spirit within me  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord  
And take not Thy holy spirit from me  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation  
And renew a right spirit within me

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**P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father:  
**C** **Almighty God, maker of all things and judge of all people, we poor sinners confess to You that we have turned away from You. We have not done the good You desire but have done the evil You forbid. We repent of all our sins of thought, word, and deed and pray for Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Turn our hearts away from sin and its temptation and grant us by the Holy Spirit to serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. To the impenitent and unbelieving I declare that so long as you continue in your impenitence, God will not forgive your sins and will visit your iniquity upon you until you turn from your sinful ways, come to repentance, and trust in the merits of Jesus Christ alone.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

## Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not,  
Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

***Chorus: Great is Thy faithfulness!***

***Great is Thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! ***Chorus:***

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Restore us, O Lord, according to Your promise, and hear the prayers of Your people who cry to You in need.

Blessed Lord, it is Your good and gracious will not to condemn but to save the sinner through the merits of Christ alone. Open our hearts to the voice of Your call, lead us to repentance, and grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may show forth the good fruits of that repentance in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**MEN** – Almighty God, we live in a world filled with temptation, fear, and threat. Grant us a refuge in Your Word that our hearts may not despair. Deliver us from all our enemies and bring us to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**WOMEN** – Merciful Lord, the tragedies and disasters of this life unsettle our hearts and feed our anxieties. Remind us of Your great compassion and faithfulness, and support the victims of such events as well as the emergency personnel who imperil themselves on our behalf. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**MEN** – Gracious God, our world cries out in search of hope; grant to those who preach Your Word the grace to proclaim it faithfully, and bless the missionaries far and near who bring Your Gospel to those who sit in the darkness of sin and death. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**ALL** – Lord God, bless us with good and faithful leaders who will hear and heed Your Word. Move us to have compassion on the oppressed, to seek justice for those who suffer wrongly, and to sustain goodness in our life and conduct. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**MEN** – Deliver, O Lord, the sick from their afflictions, the sorrowing from their grief, the troubled in mind from depression, and the dying from fear. Hear us for all who cry to You in need. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**WOMEN** – Blessed Lord, You have given us the comfort and nourishment of Your Word that we may be sustained in trial and strengthened in faith. Forgiven by Your mercy, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we show forth in holy lives our Savior, whom we here receive upon our lips. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Holy Lord, all things are Yours and yet You show Your great mercy in giving us all we need for this life and for eternal life. Give us also a grateful heart, so that we may respond with gratitude and return to You the tithes and offerings You are due for all Your kindness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray:

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Offering** – **DURING THE OFFERING: Whether you are a visitor or a member,** please turn in a Worship Card **so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.**

## Mighty To Save

Ev'ryone needs compassion  
Love that's never failing  
Let mercy fall on me  
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness  
The kindness of a Saviour  
The hope of nations

***CHORUS: Saviour He can move the mountains  
My God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save  
Forever Author of salvation  
He rose and conquered the grave  
Jesus conquered the grave***

So take me as You find me  
All my fears and failures  
Fill my life again  
I give my life to follow  
Ev'rything I believe in  
Now I surrender ***CHORUS***

***BRIDGE:*** Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King  
Jesus  
Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King

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## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- G** Amen.

## Postlude

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