

Third Sunday in Lent
Commemoration of Oscar Romero
23 March 2025

HIGHWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Meeting ID: 411 134 0591 # Passcode: 592794 #



+ HOLY COMMUNION SETTING ONE +

ORGAN PRELUDE O People, Confess Your Iniquities arr. J.S. Bach

GATHERING Pg. 94

CATECHETIC MOMENT

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Pg. 94

GATHERING HYMN As the Deer Runs to the River **No. 331**

GREETING/ KYRIE Pg. 98

PRAYER OF THE DAY Pg. 150

P We pray. 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 Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

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. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 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. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 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. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (*Isaiah 55:1-9*)

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 63 *Sung as* Rock of Ages

No. 623

SECOND LESSON A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

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, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 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." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 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. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 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. (*1 Corinthians 10:1-13*)

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Let your steadfast love...

Pg. 103

Please stand as you are able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel...

C Glory to you, O Lord

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 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? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." 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. 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?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." (*Luke 13:1-9*)

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please stand as you are able.

The response to “*Hear us, O God.*,” is “**Your mercy is great.**”

A Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Holy God, build up the body of Christ and cause the gifts of your Spirit to grow among us. Lead us to recognize your saving work through the spiritual practices you encourage. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Water the earth with gentle rains and melting snow. Provide clean water for drinking, washing, and nourishing plants that will bear fruit for your creatures. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Uphold people who speak your righteousness in the face of religious or political persecution. Receive martyrs into your everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Promote unity within your church and among the nations. Uncover the common threads in our shared humanity, and keep us from making hasty judgments about others. Bring peace to Ukraine and all that are torn apart by warfare and violence. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Provide relief for those suffering and in pain especially. Grant wisdom to health care workers who seek to diagnose ailments, and bring healing to patients. We especially pray for: Bruce Beamer, Anna Berwanger, Simret Bogale, Chrystine Cuch, Mariette Erasmus, Adeline Erick, Dolores Hollowell, Donna Harbor, Genevieve Janssen, Julie Janssen Downe, Eleanora Lahoda, Fay Larsen, Amy Lynch, Jean McCowan, Mark Mutschlechner, Bruce and Judith Nagel, Karin Olafson (Dakota, Remi and Ada), Jerry Rasmuson and family, Jim and

Joyce Rasmussen, David Sr. and Joan Richardson, Ron Sauer, Vern Schnell, Rose Sinclair, John Watt, those we name aloud ... and those we carry in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for your holy catholic Church:

- the Saskatchewan Synod, synod staff, pastors, people, and Bishop Ali Tote
- all Area council members and Highwood's council members
- our Synod Campus Ministries and especially for Rev. Canon Erin Phillips, Chaplain for the University of Lethbridge, and Lethbridge College
- all clergy, including our pastor, Rev. Michael Wellman
- Ascension Lutheran, Edmonton, and for Lord of Life Lutheran, Edmonton
- the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Alberta – Augustana Campus, Camrose
- San Juan Congregation, Piedecuesta, Colombia
- the pastors and people of the Pentecostal Churches of Canada
- the pastors and people of the Anglican, Mennonite, and Moravian Churches of Canada

For all these, Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Knit together the communion of saints, and bind us to Christ, our head. Through the diversity of gifts present in our communities, help us to overcome our limitations and increase our understanding of ourselves and others. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A By your grace you have formed Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta Society to serve you and your people in hospitals and care centres. Help them in their struggles as they minister to others. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A For all virtually gathered for this service, and those attending to the care of others and to beneficial endeavours that keep them away from worshipping. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

Pg. 106

P The peace of the Lord be always with you.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “My Soul is Thirsting (Psalm 63)” arr. M. Haugen
Setting of the altar and reception of the Offerings.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Lent)

Pg. 64

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pg. 107

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Version II)

Pg. 112

THE FRACTION

P When we eat this Bread, we share the Body of Christ; when we drink the Cup, we share the Blood of Christ.

C Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to the disciples.

LAMB OF GOD

Pg. 112

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please be seated.

Assistants and those in need commune first.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

No. 777

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

No. 332

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (Lent)

Pg. 65

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

BENEDICTION

Pg. 114

SENDING HYMN Glorious Things of You are Spoken

No. 647

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace...

C **Thanks be to God!**

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Toccatina on "Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (#490)

arr. R. Gibson



WELCOME to all gathered here today. Join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs after worship, Questions? Ask one of today's servants or speak with the pastor.

WE THANK TODAY'S SERVANTS

- Usher: Grace Karsten, David Wong
- Lector: Laura Woycenko
- Assistant: Jennifer Primmer
- Altar Guild: Helen Sandau
- Refreshments: Laura Woycenko, Remi Mitchell
- Zoom Host: Phil Tang, Ahmed Conteh

OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Last week	16 March	Budget 2025
Current	\$ 2,340	\$2,911
Benevolence	\$ 0	
Building Fund	\$ 0	
Other	\$ 239	
Attendance	40	

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today	23 Mar	11:45 PM	Fellowship and Refreshments
		2:00 PM	CFMA Worship
Monday	24 Mar	7:00 PM	12 Step Program
Tuesday	25 Mar	1:00 PM	Church Cleaning Bee
		6:30 PM	S.A.F.E. Place Peer Support
Wednesday	26 Mar	10:00 AM	12 Step Program
		7:00 PM	12 Step Program
Thursday	27 Mar	10:00 AM	Knitting Circle
		7:00 PM	Outside Group
Friday	28 Mar	7:00 PM	12 Step Program
Saturday	29 Mar	9:00 AM	House of Hope Worship

Sunday 30 Mar 10:30 AM Fourth Sunday in Lent

ETERNITY FOR TODAY booklets for April, May, and June have arrived. Pick up one in the narthex and downstairs.

CLEANING BEE – Please join us as we prepare for Easter, this Tuesday 25 March at 1:00 PM to clean the church, pews and inside windows. Cleaning supplies will be provided.

HIGHWOOD HIGHLIGHTS- Submissions for the April issue are accepted until 25 March 2025. Email items to secretaryhlc@outlook.com

FOOD BANK DRIVE –Our Food Bank Drive has officially started! Our goal is to gather donations and have everything ready for Palm Sunday, the Second Sunday in April so we can deliver them to the distribution centre. We encourage you to drop off your non-perishable items or food box donations at the Narthex. Every contribution counts, and your support is greatly appreciated! Thank you for your generosity and commitment to helping those in need.

KNITTING CIRCLE - Invites knitters and crocheters of all skill levels to get together on Thursday, 28 March at 10:00 AM. We will even teach you if you are challenged by yarn.

LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRIES – SOUTHERN ALBERTA SOCIETY needs your prayers and support. Please see their spring newsletter. For more information, speak with Pr. Mike or David Wong.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – If you need a ride to church, contact Elizabeth Anderson 587 897 0548 or Bill Strand 403 239 9894

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS	Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32