

welcome to worship
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
March 8, 2026



arr. Wold

PRELUDE

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

WELCOME

Pastor Katie

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

We come as we are to confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 777

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty – stanzas 1, 2, 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Miss Tracey

READING

Romans 5:1-11 (The Message)

5¹⁻² By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right, make us fit—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that’s not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that God has already thrown open the door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God’s grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.

3-5 There’s more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we’re hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we’re never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can’t round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

6-8 Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn’t, and doesn’t, wait for us to get ready. Christ presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn’t been so weak, we wouldn’t have known what to do anyway. We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put God’s love on the line for us by offering the Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever.

9-11 Now that we are set right with God by means of this sacrificial death, the consummate blood sacrifice, there is no longer a question of being at odds with God in any way. If, when we were at our worst, we were put on friendly terms with God by the sacrificial death of the Son, now that we’re at our best, just think of how our lives will expand and deepen by means of Christ’s resurrection life! Now that we have actually received this amazing friendship with God, we are no longer content to simply say it in plodding prose. We sing and shout our praises to God through Jesus, the Messiah!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *sing twice*

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 4:5-30, 39 (The Message)

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

5-6 [Jesus] came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

7-8 A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, “Would you give me a drink of water?” (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

- ⁹ The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, “How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (Jews in those days wouldn’t be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)
- ¹⁰ Jesus answered, “If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.”
- ¹¹⁻¹² The woman said, “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this ‘living water’? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?”
- ¹³⁻¹⁴ Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.”
- ¹⁵ The woman said, “Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty, won’t ever have to come back to this well again!”
- ¹⁶ He said, “Go call your husband and then come back.”
- ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ “I have no husband,” she said.
- “That’s nicely put: ‘I have no husband.’ You’ve had five husbands, and the man you’re living with now isn’t even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough.”
- ¹⁹⁻²⁰ “Oh, so you’re a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?”
- ²¹⁻²³ “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God’s way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.
- ²³⁻²⁴ “It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.”
- ²⁵ The woman said, “I don’t know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we’ll get the whole story.”
- ²⁶ “I am he,” said Jesus. “You don’t have to wait any longer or look any further.”
- ²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked. They couldn’t believe he was talking with that kind of a woman. No one said what they were all thinking, but their faces showed it.
- ²⁸⁻³⁰ The woman took the hint and left. In her confusion she left her water pot. Back in the village she told the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!” Do you think this could be the Messiah?” And they went out to see for themselves.
- ³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that village committed themselves to him because of the woman’s witness: “He told me everything I have ever done!”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Katie

The assembly stands.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

Each petition concludes ... Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude ... through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

If you brought an offering or your pledge card today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.



OFFERTORY

I'm Going on a Journey
Children's Choir and Atonement Choir

Bonnemère, arr. Hayes

I'm going on a journey, and I'm starting today. | My head is wet, and I'm on my way.
God's mark is on me; it's on you, too. | God says he loves me, and he loves you, too!

I'm becoming this day a saint of God. | It really doesn't matter what roads I trod.
Wherever I go he's been there, too.

God's love has touched me and will carry me through.

There are other saints who have said, "Amen."

They'll keep me faithful to my journey's end.

Along the way I want to be | The kind of person that God set free.

Words by Kenneth D. Larkin

HOLY COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

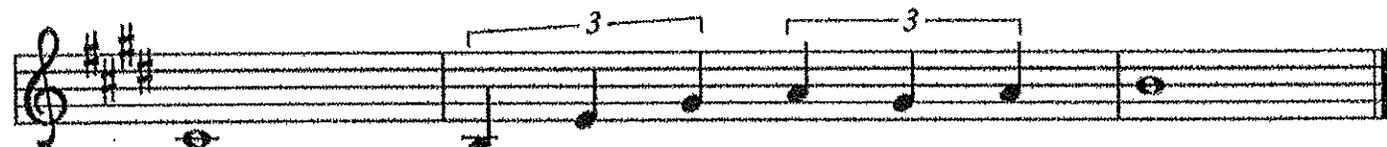
Come to the Water of Life



1 All who are thirst-y for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y for
 2 All who are thirst-y for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y for
 3 All who are thirst-y for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y for
 4 All who are thirst-y for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Take Me to the Water



1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter,
 2 I . . . love . . Je - sus, I . . . love . . Je - sus,
 3 He's . . my . . Sav - ior, he's . . my . . Sav - ior,



take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
 I . . . love . . Je - sus, oh, yes, I do.
 he's . . my . . Sav - ior, oh, yes, he is.

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God of all that we hardly notice,
Ruler of the ground under our feet and the sky stretched over our heads,
Send your Spirit to direct our steps and our thoughts as we stumble around this day and night.
We have too much to do, so give us enough silence to hear your voice.
We have too much to worry about, so quiet us with a moment of your peace.
We have too much to carry, so lighten our hearts with your love.
We are your people, eyes cast down on the ground that you made, wary that the sky will fall again. Remind us again that above and below you are here. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 618 *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. Serve together. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

arr. Manz

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Our final blessing during this Lenten season is from "Have a Beautiful Terrible Day!" by Kate Bowler.

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Assisting with Worship

Ron & Tammy Foreman, greeters ♦ Youth Usher Team
Rosemary Fraley, lector ♦ Yvonne Gilbert, assisting minister
Tyler Good, Ed Kern, Sandy Kern, Sally Youngcourt, communion assistants
Tom Endy, Zoe Shirk, audio/visual ♦ Frank & Victoria Mercuri, nursery
Karen Sandloop, altar captain ♦ Kaia Arana Lyon, sexton
Atonement Children's Choir ♦ Atonement Choir

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement

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Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610-2081
phone: 610-375-3512 ♦ www.atonementwyo.org
The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community! Together we are on the journey of discipleship with Jesus, who guides us from worship to formation, from formation to fellowship, and from fellowship to Christ-like servanthood.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available at the entrance to the worship space. Children from 3 years of age to 2nd grade are invited to experience worship geared just for them—follow the **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL** leader to the privacy room after the Children's Message. Children will return to their families for communion.

THE NURSERY is available for children preschool age and younger in Room F 126.

HEARING DEVICES for those who have trouble hearing the service are available with the ushers.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A **FAMILY RESTROOM** with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are Monday—Thursday, 10:30am—2:30pm or by appointment.

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code **50244** when you make a donation.

FOOD DONATIONS of canned goods, cereal, and other non-perishable, non-expired items for Lutheran Pantry are always accepted in the grocery cart in the narthex.

CLOTHING AND REUSABLE GROCERY BAG DONATIONS FOR COMMON GROUND are being collected in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex. You can also donate using our Amazon wish list, available by going to atonementwyo.org and selecting Common Ground from the top menu of the home page.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION for the 2026-27 school year is open! Email Mrs. Dauber at jdauber@atonementwyo.org for more information.

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN meets Sunday mornings, 8:45-9:45. Adults meet in room F122, children meet in the choir room.

HEART TO HEART, a casual gathering of women to share experiences and learn from one another will be held Sundays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, 8:45-9:45am in the parlor. Gather, share, learn together. Email Jen Dauber at jdauber@atonementwyo.org with questions.

A **PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER** is underway to resurface the playground so that it is accessible for all students. Donations made be made payable to Atonement, with playground in the check memo or notes section of online donations.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES during Lent will be in Lundin Hall with Common Ground at 7:00 pm. A simple dinner will be served at 6:00. Everyone is welcome!

DAVE WATTS will be in concert at Atonement, Saturday, March 28, 4:00pm. Cost is \$20 at the door, use the link from the homepage of atonementwyo.org to RSVP.

A **COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER** will be after worship today. If you are unable to attend and have questions, concerns or would like more information, contact Kate Harenza at 610-781-3207.

PRETZEL SALE fundraiser for the playground resurfacing project will be after church March 22. Cost is \$2 per pretzel.



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

SENDING HYMN 618

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

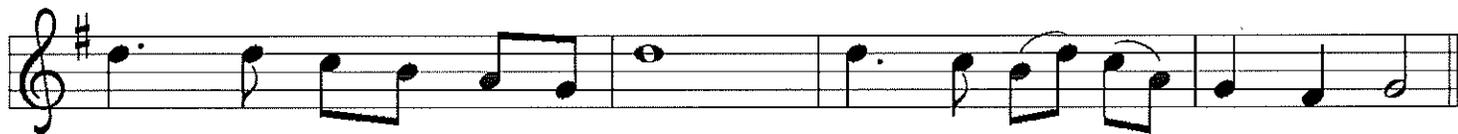
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.