



Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.
Third Sunday in Lent
The Promise of Belonging

GATHERING

WELCOME

We gather in the Triune name of God: who gives us their Word,
whose promise makes us one people, who seals and delivers us.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In this season of Lent, we hear the stories of how God has formed us
out of dust and ash and promises into God's own people.
But time and again our commitment crumbles, and we are scattered by sin.
Beloved, let us return to God, confessing what tears us apart
so that God can put us back together.

A brief silence.

God, we confess: we have sinned.

**We have turned away from you,
away from one another, into ourselves.**

**We have allowed our love of you
to be supplanted by the fear of other things:
death, suffering, weakness, want.**

Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn.

Help us.

Promise us that even this brokenness can be made well.

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.
Amen.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray... God, Solid Rock, you carve out a path on which we can live rightly with you and each other. But the record shows our stubbornness.

So, God, we pray: be stubborner. Oust our impulse to follow other paths.

As many times as we turn from you, turn us back, again and again, until your will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING – 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-14, 26-27

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL – Matthew 18:19-20

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Michael Stadie

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding to each prayer with the words, "**Your mercy is great.**"

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night. We rest securely in you, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

We don't serve ourselves communion because there's something holy about that promise coming from outside our own bodies, a perfect declaration from God spoken to us by our neighbor: This is the body of Christ, given for you. This is the blood of Christ, poured out for you. If you are gathered with others from your household, speak these words aloud when you serve each other. If you do not have someone in the room with you while you receive the sacrament, hear my voice as the external word of grace and invitation.

+ + ***Receive the Meal*** + +

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

We pause for prayer and reflection.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of steadfast love, you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Dwell in God's promises.

Thanks be to God.



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Our Mission:

Transforming lives by sharing a saving faith in Jesus Christ
and living the Gospel through service

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, connect with our ministries,
meet with our pastor, or learn more about ELC and how to join, feel free to call or
email us. You are always welcome here.

+ Pastor Christina Klein

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*See you next week for worship livestream
at 5pm on Saturday and 8:45am & 10:45am on Sunday!
We continue sharing in communion. Please call/email the church office if you
need elements brought to you.*

*Join us on ZOOM for Lenten midweek services, Wednesdays at 7pm. See you
next week for worship at 5pm on Saturday
and livestream at 8:45am & 10:45am on Sunday!*