



**March 4, 2018 11:15 a.m.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

### *Gathering Time*

*“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” - Matthew 6:12*

Though our sin threatens to alienate us from God and one another, God continues to draw near to us. As we read in the Book of Psalms, “God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

What words come to mind when you consider forgiveness? *Freedom? New Life? Mercy? Transformation? Salvation?* Take a moment to reflect upon God’s gift of grace and what forgiveness means to you. We invite you to write one of these words or to draw an image on the clothespin you received at the beginning of worship; then attach your clothespin to the papers pinned on the cross.

*Song #658*

*“God Is So Good”*

*Welcome and Living Our Faith*

## *Passing the Peace*

### *Call to Worship*

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,

**so God seeks and saves the lost.**

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,

**so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.**

As a father receives a returning wayward child,

**so God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.**

Therefore let us praise God with thanksgiving that we are accepted.

**And let us receive and welcome one another in the name of Christ.**

### *Song #664*

“Morning Has Broken”

### *Call to Confession*

God does not give us a spirit of cowardice,

but seeks to inspire in us courage, determination and hope.

**Let us confess our reluctance to follow where Christ leads us.**

### *Prayer of Confession*

**Great God of the universe,**

**who like a father promises us a wondrous inheritance**

**and like a mother loves us unconditionally,**

**we give thanks for the abundance of your grace,**

**revealed to us throughout your creation,**

**and made explicit to us in Christ.**

**In him we have seen your glory,**

**and have come to know the depth and breadth of your love.**

**Such love summons us to respond in love;**

**yet, we confess, we have not loved you with our whole heart,**

**nor have we forgiven others as you have forgiven us.**

**Inspire us to serve you faithfully**

**as we strive to follow the way of Christ. Amen.**

## *Assurance of God's Forgiveness*

*Scripture Lesson*

Matthew 6:7-13

Mary Field, Lay Reader

*Response*

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Message*

“The Prayer Jesus Taught”

Greg Jones

*Offering*

*Please sign the blue friendship notebook and pass it to the person next to you.*

*Communion of the People*

*Invitation*

*Song #508*

“Come to the Table”

Verse 1: Leader

Verses 2 – 3: All

*The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Eternal God...

*The Lord's Prayer (Sung; #464 in the Hymnal)*

*Words of Institution*

*Sharing the Bread and Cup*

*The Lord's Supper is open to all who trust in Christ.*

*When you approach communion servers, please take a piece of bread,  
the symbol of Christ's love for you, and dip it in the cup, representing the new life in Christ.*

*For those who have wheat allergies, we provide gluten-free rice crackers with the communion bread.*

## Prayer Following Communion

Song #547                    “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Sending

Song #747                    “The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

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*Following worship, please join us in the Meeting Room for coffee, tea, and fellowship.*  
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### *Come to the Cross: A Lenten Journey*

The center of the Easter story is the cross. Throughout these forty days, the cross in Rodney Chapel will become a visual prayer, representing our lament, our longing, and our hope.

***We are thankful for your presence and participation this morning.*** Westminster has two worship options each Sunday. Our other Sunday morning worship service is held at 9:00 a.m., and includes a choir, organ music and a brief Children’s Message. Both services include prayers, singing, scripture and sermon.

***Following worship, feel free to make a bouquet to brighten someone’s day.*** Today’s flowers are given by Gary and Kitty Knox to the Glory of God and in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary.

***Please remember in your prayers*** Frank Pickering, Betty Uhlinger and Mary Young.

***Children are welcome in worship.*** You will find yellow worship bags for all children at the chapel entrance.

***Image: “Forgive Us”, by Jacqueline***

*Holmgren, [www.jacquelineholmgrens.com/page2/page9/page/](http://www.jacquelineholmgrens.com/page2/page9/page/)*

Pastors: Gregory Knox Jones and  
Sudie Niesen Thompson (on maternity leave)

Pianist: Paul Fleckenstein

Song Leader: Christian Sanders

Digital Artist: Bob Cox



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