

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for the Third Sunday in Lent**  
*March 3, 2024*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Marvelous Grace* - Anna Laura Page

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Let Us Break Bread* - Paul Taylor

**Introit #89:** *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* v. 5 Chancel Choir

**Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day**

We are here with a vision of what can be as God calls us to worship.

**We have journeyed this far, and we pause in gratitude.**

Our endurance builds a spirit of understanding and, even in our weariness, joyful praise.

**Hear our thanks as our hearts dance and voices sing.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**You have revealed to us the sacrifices of the Lenten journey as we go. Here in the middle, as we sojourn, we look back at how far we have come and forward towards what is to come. Beloved God, you call us to stop and to be, finding joy where we are. You show us the beauty of the sky above, the firmness of the earth below. We breathe in the air of a new day, remember the rain along the way, and cling to the dreams of our nights. We stop and give thanks because we are alive and you are our God! Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #225:** *Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle* (stand)

**Call to Confession**

God does not wait for us to be righteous, or pure, or perfect.

**Christ died for us while we were still sinners.**

We do not have to hide our sin from God.

**We can face it with Jesus, who heals us, teaches us, and leads us to new life.**

## Prayer of Confession

**Jesus, friend of all, once again, we come to you knowing our words have stung, our actions have harmed, and our indifference has let evil have its day. Our hearts yearn for you, our souls thirst for you, yet we do not imitate you in our lives. We scorn those who are different from us, and relish our own comfort. Once again, forgive us, O God. Give us your living water, that we might tell the world all you have done for us.**

## Declaration of Pardon

We know that God is with us even in our sufferings.

**Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us.**

God's love has been poured into our hearts.

**Thanks be to God!**

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

## Passing the Peace of Christ

### Lord, Have Mercy #551:

**Antem:** *Come Now and Take the Body of the Lord* Charles Callahan

**Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**

## Prayers of the People

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *(brief silence)*

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our heart, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings** (please stand)

**Offering #710:** *We are an Offering*

## **Prayer of Dedication and Illumination:**

**Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus. As we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.**

## **Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Exodus 20:1 – 17

**Epistle Lesson:** I Corinthians 1:18 - 25

**Gospel Lesson:** John 2:13 - 22

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** *Barriers*

Jonathan Kimball

**Communion Hymn#533:**

*In the Singing*

## **Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving**

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!  
People will come from north and south, from east and west,  
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them.

Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God. We thank you for your steadfast love in spite of our human sin. We join with the heavenly choirs and the faithful of every time and place to sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

### **Hosanna in the highest!**

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and give it to his disciples saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising  
you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us pray:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory, forever. Amen**

### **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Come to me and never be hungry;

believe in me and never thirst.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.** *(take the communion)*

### **Prayer After Communion**

**Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of  
wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the  
name of Jesus, the Bread of Life. Amen**

**Sending Hymn #307:**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

**Benediction:**

(remain standing)

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, and renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *Revive Us Again* - Pepper Choplin

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