

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina

The Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space
Please observe silence after the altar candles are

A Penitential Order

PRELUDE *Like a River Glorious*

Arr. Lloyd Larson

A bell rings three times; the people stand.

Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

THE DECALOGUE

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Since we have a great high priest who passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

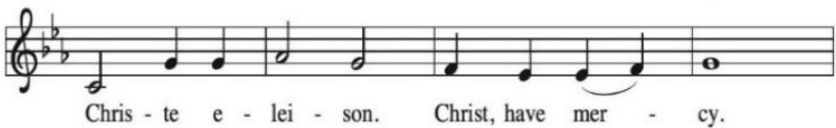
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 3:1-15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to

you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 63:1-8

- ¹God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- ²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, ***
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- ³For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.
- ⁴**So will I bless you as long as I live ***
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- ⁵My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- ⁶**When I remember you upon my bed, ***
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- ⁷For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- ⁸**My soul clings to you; ***
your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from Paul's 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *GTG #441 Hear the Good News of Salvation*

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.

Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.

Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin

How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring.

I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing.

Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin

How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that very time there were some present who told [Jesus] 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.’”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Tracey Kelly

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader People of God, come, the Lord has done great things for us. Let us pray to the Lord singing,

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O
 Lord hear my pray'r, Come and lis - ten to me. O

Fine

THE PEACE

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

GATHERING

H# 655 *O Jesus, I have promised*

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
 2 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 3 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee,

be thou for ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be;

I shall not fear the bat - tle, if thou art by my side,
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 and, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way, if thou wilt be my guide.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalms 50:14*

OFFERTORY *Let the Vineyards w/St. George's Windsor*
Arr. Sherri Hansen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

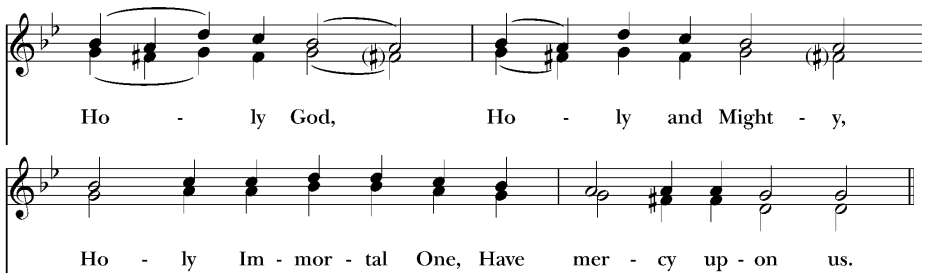
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S 102 Holy God



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

S 158 O Lamb of God

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 on us. O Lamb of God, that
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
 mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
 God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
 world, grant us thy peace.

COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)

COMMUNION HYMN

H# 685 Rock of ages, cleft for me

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
 3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,
 all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
 when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
 in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LENTEN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

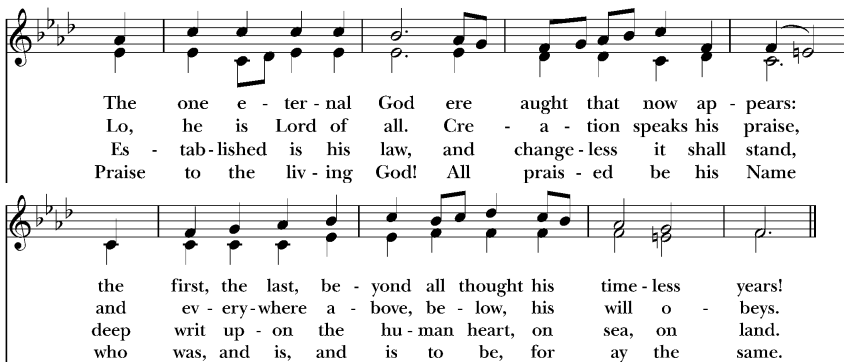
H# 372 Praise to the living God



1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name
 2 Form - less, all love - ly forms de - clare his love - li - ness;
 3 His Spi - rit flow - eth free, high surg - ing where it will;
 4 E - ter - nal life hath he im - plant - ed in the soul;



who was, and is, and is to be for ay the same.
 ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth can his ex - press.
 in pro - phet's word he spoke of old; he speak - eth still.
 his love shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.



The one e - ter - nal God ere aught that now ap - pears:
 Lo, he is Lord of all. Cre - a - tion speaks his praise,
 Es - tab - lished is his law, and change - less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name

the first, the last, be - yond all thought his time - less years!
 and ev - ery - where a - bove, be - low, his will o - beys.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, on land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.

DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Gentle Yoga with Kelly, Fri. 10:00 am, March 28
 Holden Evening Prayer, Tues. 6:30 pm. March 25, April 1 and 8, Mills River Presbyterian
 Men's Group, Sat. 9:00 am, April 5, Mills River Restaurant
 Women's Group, Sat. 10:00 am, April 12

CONTACT INFORMATION

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