

**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
Mills River, North Carolina

**The Third Sunday in Lent**  
**March 8<sup>th</sup> , 2026**

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

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**A Penitential Order**

PRELUDE *Rock of Ages*

*Faye Lopez*

**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

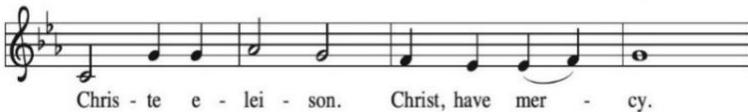
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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



## 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 17:1-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

*Reader*                The Word of the Lord.

***People***                **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 95

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God, \*

and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it, \*

and his hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

<sup>8</sup>**Harden not your hearts,**

**as your forebears did in the wilderness, \*  
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,  
when they tempted me.**

<sup>9</sup>They put me to the test, \*

though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup>**Forty years long I detested that generation and said, \***

**“This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways.”**

<sup>11</sup>So I swore in my wrath, \*

“They shall not enter into my rest.”

## **SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through

the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

*H# 676 Sometimes I feel discouraged*

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad, to make the wound - ed  
 whole, there is a balm in Gil - e - ad, to  
 heal the sin - sick soul. soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and  
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you  
 think my work's in vain, but then the Ho - ly  
 can - not pray like Paul, you can tell the love of

*Repeat Refrain*  
 Spi - rit re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 Je - sus, and say, "He died for all."

**GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They

left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>1</sup>And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

*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 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

*Zach Unke*

## 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# 308 O Food to pilgrims given*

*Unison or harmony*



1 O Food to pil - grims giv - en, O Bread of  
2 O stream of love past tell - ing, O pur - est  
3 O Je - sus, by thee bid - den, we here a -

life from hea - ven, O Man - na from on high!  
foun - tain, well - ing from out the Sa - vior's side!  
dore thee, hid - den in forms of bread and wine.

We hun - ger; Lord, sup - ply us, nor thy de -  
We faint with thirst; re - vive us, of thine a -  
Grant when the veil is riv - en, we may be -

lights de - ny us, whose hearts to thee draw nigh.  
bun - dance give us, and all we need pro - vide.  
hold, in hea - ven, thy coun - te - nance di - vine.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER AND BLESSING

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.

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.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**H# 679 Surely it is God who saves me**



1 Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not  
2 Make his deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed



fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing  
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his



help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -  
might pro - claim. Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with



va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -  
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the



liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.  
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

**DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Gentle Yoga with Kelly, Fri., 9:30 am, March 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>

Choir Practice, Sun. March 8<sup>th</sup>, and March 15<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am<sup>t</sup>

Christian Ed, Sun. 9:15

Vestry Meeting, Sun. March 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:15 pm

Women's Group, Sat.. March 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am

Daytime Book Club, Mon, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am, Southern Streams  
Coffee House

Lenten Program, *The Way*, Tues. 5:30 pm, March 10, 17, and 24 Mills  
River Presbyterian Church

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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