



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

8:00 am - 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

*Coffee Hour to follow at 11:00*

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort  
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship  
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.

And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door  
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

**The Processional Hymn**  
**The Hymnal 1982 #343 Shepherd of souls**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says:*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
*People* **His mercy endures forever.**

**The Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Trisagion**

*The Hymnal 1982 #S 102 Holy God (Sung three times)*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: Ver. *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

**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.**

## The Readings

*All are seated.*

### Exodus 17:1-7

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?"

The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 95 *Venite, exultemus* (Read responsively by half verse)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

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

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God,

**and a great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

**and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,

**and his hands have molded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

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!**

Harden not your hearts,

as your forebears did in the wilderness,

**at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,**

**when they tempted me.**

They put me to the test,

**though they had seen my works.**

Forty years long I detested that generation and said,

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

So I swore in my wrath,

**"They shall not enter into my rest."**

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

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.

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
                         **Thanks be to God.**

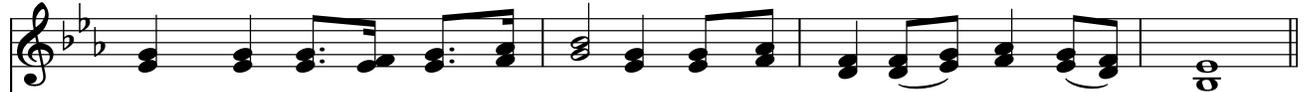
*All stand as are able.*

## Gradual Hymn

### Lift Every Voice And Sing II #141 Shall We Gather at the River



1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; \_\_\_
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray, \_\_\_
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down; \_\_\_
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease, \_\_\_



1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.
3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

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

*People*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### John 4:5-42

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. 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."

*People*                    The Gospel of the Lord.  
                                  **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

*A brief time of reflection follows the sermon*

The Rev. Mark Witte

## 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

### *Celebrant*

To all who come to the well, God gives living water. As we make our journey to the paschal feast, let us earnestly pray to God for all who thirst and hunger.

### *Intercessor*

For the holy catholic church in every place, traveling the wilderness of this world.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Andy, Kai, Jeff, Hector, and Brian our bishops, for presbyters and deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all in this congregation discerning a call to baptism or confirmation, and for all who wish to be born of the Spirit.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the victims of greed and violence, and for all who are in need, especially [N.], and those we now name.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the dying and the dead, holding in memory [N.], and those we now name.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our families, friends, and companions, and for all those we love.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary, Luke, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Lord.**

*Celebrant*

Blessed are you, God of spirit and truth, who gave us the savior of the world. Receive the prayers we offer this day for those who seek new life in Christ and for all peoples everywhere; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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.**

*The Celebrant says*

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.**

**The Peace**

*All stand as are able.*

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**

**Announcements**

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Marshall Kincannon (8<sup>th</sup>), Steven Dyche (11<sup>th</sup>)

*Celebrant and People*

**Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, given by text by sending an amount to (254) 282-0706, or given online. Mailed checks may be sent to the address printed at the end of the bulletin.*

**The Offertory Hymn**

**The Hymnal 1982 #458 My Song is Love Unknown**

**Doxology**

*(sung to The Hymnal 380)*

***Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

*Expansive Language*

*The people remain standing, as are able. The Celebrant says*

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

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #125 Holy, holy, holy (Proulx)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

*The people stand or kneel, as are able.*

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember Christ’s death,  
We proclaim Christ’s resurrection,  
We await Christ’s coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Virgin Mary, Luke and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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, for  
ever and ever. Amen.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
**grant us thy peace.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## **The Distribution of Holy Communion**

### ***Concerning Holy Communion***

*“This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.  
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.  
So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,  
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,  
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.  
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.  
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.”*



*If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.  
Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.*



*Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*



*If after receiving Communion or a blessing you would like special prayers for healing, you are invited to go to the votive stand at the rear of the church where someone will pray with you.*

## **Communion Hymn**

### **The Hymnal 1982 #685 Rock of Ages**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says  
Let us pray.*

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Priest gives the blessing*

### **Blessing**

May the God who binds up the broken-hearted,  
Who proclaims freedom to the captive  
And promises justice  
To all who mourn its loss,  
Bless you with beauty instead of ashes,  
The oil of gladness in place of grief,  
And instead of your spirit of despair,  
A garment of unending praise;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Processional

The Hymnal 1982 #686 Come, thou fount of every blessing

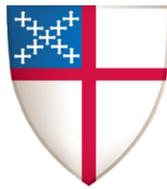
## The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn permission used by Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.*

*This week's Prayers of the People draw from the archive of the late Deacon Ormonde Plater.*



## From the Calendar of Saints

**March 9** Gregory *Bishop of Nyssa, c. 394*

Gregory was the brother of Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea and Macrina, a monastic, theologian, and teacher. Gregory was honored at the Council of Constantinople as the “pillar of the Church” for his fight for the Nicene faith.

**March 12** Gregory the Great *Bishop of Rome, 604*

One of only two popes to be called “great” (the other is Leo the First), Gregory is also known as the Apostle of the English for his evangelizing missions to the Anglo-Saxons. He served with energy and efficiency during the barbarian invasions of Italy.

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

PO Box 2506  
595 N. McIlhane Street  
Stephenville, TX 76401  
(254) 968-6949

[stlukesstephenville@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesstephenville@gmail.com)

[www.stlukesstephenville.org](http://www.stlukesstephenville.org)

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## Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – Rector

The Rev. Mark Witte – Curate

The Rev. Leslie Guinn - Assisting

## Staff

Lexi McLemore – Parish Administrator

Duncan McMahan – Organist

Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses

The Rev. Mark Witte – ECM Missioner

Neely Carter – Vestry Secretary

Emma Gomez – Technology Minister

## Vestry

Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross, & Ian Wilson

Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes

Term Ending 2028 – Gail Johnson & Dylan Dowell

