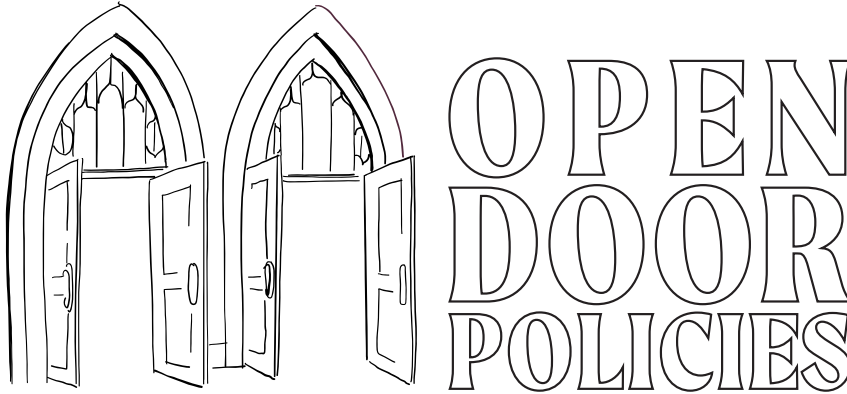


3rd Sunday in Lent

Always Present, Always Patient



***God's Surprising Strategy for Getting
Sinners Back Home***

Atonement Lutheran Church
9121 Old Harford Rd + Parkville, MD 21234
(410)-668-3886

March 23, 2025 – 9:30am

WELCOME!

We are glad that you have joined us today! Our service is printed for you in its entirety in this worship folder. If you need anything, please speak to an usher at the entrance to the sanctuary. A few helpful notes about worship at Atonement:

- **During the Service** the congregation reads the **bold portions marked with a “C”**.
- **Restrooms** are located near the entry to the sanctuary.
- **Infants Room** – If you have a young child or nursing infant and are in need of an infant-room, you will find it to the far right as you enter the sanctuary.
- **The Guest Registry** is found on the wall to the left as you enter the sanctuary. We would appreciate a record of your visit! You may also indicate in the registry if you would like to stay in touch.
- **Foundations Class** – If you are interested in learning more about what we teach and believe, please ask the usher or the pastor about our no-obligation Foundations Class which covers the basic teachings of our biblical faith.
- **Prayer before worship** – Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word, and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dan Meister
Matt Wolf
Mark Fostervold
Karen Meister
Pastor Koelpin

Music
Usher
Streaming
Greeter
Preacher

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+ Service of The Word +

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

OPENING HYMN

116 – In the Hour of Trial



1 There is a foun - tain filled with blood— Im -
2 The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see That
3 Dear dy - ing Lamb, your pre - cious blood Shall
4 E'er since by faith I saw the stream Your
5 When this poor lisp - ing, stam - m'ring tongue Lies



man - u - el was slain— And sin - ners
foun - tain in his day; And there have
nev - er lose its pow'r Till all the
flow - ing wounds sup - ply, Re - deem - ing
si - lent in the grave, Then in a



who are washed there - in Lose ev - 'ry
I, as vile as he, Washed all - my
ran - somed Church of God Be saved and
love has been my theme And shall be
no - bler, sweet - er song I'll sing your



guilt - y stain, Lose ev - 'ry guilt - y stain.
sins a - way, Washed all my sins a - way.
sin no more, Be saved and sin no more.
till I die, And shall be till I die.
pow'r to save, I'll sing your pow'r to save.

Text: William Cowper, 1731–1800. abr., alt.
Tune: COWPER (CM) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

Stand

- M The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C **Amen.**
- M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M Let us pray.
- O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be Seated

+ The Word +

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 3:1-15

The Lord reveals his presence to Moses as flames within a bush – fire that warms and gives light yet does not consume.

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’”

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

M The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 85

Refrain

I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Psalm tone

You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people*
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation. **Refrain**

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;*
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen. **Refrain****

Refrain Tune: From *The Psalms for the Day, Series C*. © 1976 Fortress Press. All rights reserved.
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SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

God revealed his presence among the nation of Israel. Instead of his presence leading to repentant faith, with a sense of false security the Israelites set their hearts on evil.

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three

thousand of them died. ⁹ We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

2 Peter 3:9

“⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

Alleluias are omitted during the season of Lent.

Stand

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

God is always patient, but our time of grace does come to an end at the moment of death. Since that can come at unexpected times, Jesus teaches that the time to repent is right now.

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

M The Gospel of the Lord.



Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

337 – Delay Not! Delay Not!



1 De - lay not! De - lay not! O sin - ner, draw near!
 2 De - lay not! De - lay not, O sin - ner, to come,
 3 De - lay not! De - lay not! The Spir - it of grace,
 4 De - lay not! De - lay not! The hour is at hand;
 5 De - lay not! De - lay not! Why long - er a - buse



The wa - ters of life are now flow - ing for you.
 For mer - cy still lin - gers and calls you to - day.
 Long grieved and re - sist - ed, may take his sad flight
 The earth will dis - solve, and the heav - ens will fade.
 The love and com - pas - sion of Je - sus, your God?



No price is de - mand - ed; the Sav - ior is here.
 Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
 And leave you in dark - ness to fin - ish your race,
 The dead, small and great, in the Judg - ment must stand—
 A foun - tain is o - pened—how can you re - fuse?



Re - demp - tion is pur - chased; God's prom - ise is true.
 Its mes - sage, un - heed - ed, will soon pass a - way.
 To sink in the gloom of e - ter - ni - ty's night.
 What pow'r, then, O sin - ner, can lend you its aid?
 Come, wash and be cleansed in his par - don - ing blood.

Text: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872, alt.

Tune: MALDWYN (11 11 11 11) Welsh melody, 17th century.

**+ Sermon +
The Time is Now!**



Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be Seated

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN

473 – Savior, I Follow On



1 Sav - ior, I fol - low on, Guid - ed by thee,
2 Riv - en the rock for me, Thirst to re - lieve,
3 Of - ten to Ma - rah's brink Have I been brought;
4 Sav - ior, I long to walk Clos - er with thee;



See - ing not yet the hand That lead - eth me.
Man - na from heav - en falls Fresh ev - 'ry eve.
Shrink - ing the cup to drink, Help I have sought,
Led by thy guid - ing hand, Ev - er to be



Hushed be my heart and still; Fear I no fur - ther ill.
Nev - er a want se - vere Caus - eth my eye a tear,
And with the prayer's as - cent Je - sus the branch hath rent,
Con - stant - ly near thy side, Quick - ened and pu - ri - fied,



On - ly to meet thy will My will shall be.
But thou dost whis - per near, "On - ly be - lieve."
Quick - ly re - lief hath sent, Sweet - 'ning the draught.
Liv - ing for him who died Free - ly for me.

Text: Charles S. Robinson, 1829–99, alt.
Tune: WINTERTON (64 64 6664) Joseph Barnby, 1838–96.

Stand

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN

331 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah,
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan,



Pil - grim through this bar - ren land.
 Whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
 Bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;



I am weak, but thou art might - y; Hold me
 Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar Lead me
 Death of death and hell's De - struc - tion, Land me



with thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong De - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es



Feed me till I want no more.
 Be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, st. 1; William Williams, st. 2-3.
 Tune: GUIDE ME (87 87 47) George W. Warren, 1828–1902.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday

- **March 14** – Timothy Kassebaum
- **March 26** – Joe Buabeng
- **March 31** – Callahan Potter

Other Announcements

- **Jessica & Andrew Benfer's New Baby** – We give thanks to God for the birth of Josiah Newton Benfer on March 17th.
- **LWMS** – Please contact Ellen C. or Pastor if you are interested in attending the LWMS Rally on April 26th in Yorktown, VA. Registration is open and can be found at: LWMSheritage.org. Please register if you are planning to stream it online or attend in person.
- **LWMS Donations** – If you would like to support the mission efforts backed by the LWMS heritage circuit, please get checks or cash donations to Ellen by March 30th.

Mark Your Calendars

- **March 25** – PCRC8 Meeting @ 7pm – Christus Victor Lutheran Church
- **April 5** – Shred Day
- **April 12** – Church Clean-up Day

Volunteer Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Streaming</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Greeter</i>
March 30	Dan M.	Angie C.	Bruce G.	Matt W.	Ellen C.
April 6	Audrey S.	Ellen C.	Scott S.	Tim C.	Mary Q.
April 13	Mark F.	Dan M.	Gil P.		Kathy K.

Let's Stay in Touch!

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