



Sunday, March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the day.

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Prelude

Choral Prelude on "Christus, der uns selig macht"
BWV 620 from the *Orgelbüchlein*
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

Psalm of the Day -- Psalm 51:14-17

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

Introit

"We Have Come into His House"
Music: Bruce Ballinger

IPC Choir
Chandler Cudlipp, Director

*Call to Worship -- Psalm 92:1-2

Ingrid Käser

Leader: It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High,

People: to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

*Hymn of Praise #84 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Leader: Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you.

People: But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant, our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Leader: God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

People: Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

God's Gracious Will for Our Lives -- Philippians 2:1-8

Leader: Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

People: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

***Gloria Patri** #579 "Glory Be to the Father"

RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD

Choral Prayer of Illumination

"Lord, Be Thy Word My Rule"

Music: Henry Lawes

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 51:1-12 (p. 573)

Ingrid Käser

New Testament Reading

Luke 22:54-62 (pp. 1058-1059)

Sermon

"At the Palace of the Jewish High Priest – Were You There?" Rev. Mark W. van Stee

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn of Response** #102 "Were You There"

Samira Darby, Solo

The congregation is invited to sing verses 3 and 4.

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Maio Chen, Council Chairperson

Offertory

“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”

IPC Choir

Words: James Gertmenian; Music: Thomas Tallis

***Doxology #592** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayers of the People

Maio Chen

The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison in English or the language of your choice*)

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. Amen.

GOING WITH GOD’S MISSION AND BLESSING

Welcoming of Guests

Maio Chen

Announcements

***Hymn of Dedication #326** “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

*Sending and Benediction

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Choral Benediction

“Christ, We Do All Adore Thee”

Postlude

Fugue in C Major BWV 545

Ruth Pfister, Organ

Johann Sebastian Bach

Please remain quietly seated during the postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

****Please stand if you are able.***

Today’s bulletin cover features Italian artist Caravaggio’s “The Denial of St. Peter” (1610). As one art historian notes: “This subject is unusual in Italian painting. St Peter’s denial was usually shown as a part of Passion sequence. As a stand-alone narrative, artists or patrons tended to choose Peter’s repentance rather than his denial. There are a great many paintings which simply show St Peter weeping. Clearly, Caravaggio puts the focus on the denial, but he does not exclude the moment of repentance. This pivotal moment is subtly and very powerfully captured.” This painting is part of the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.