

The Lord's Service

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Lamentations 3:22-24

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

SILENT PRAYER

GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

† SALUTATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

† CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 136:1, 23-24

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. ... It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever; and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever.

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 457: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

† PRAYER OF ADORATION

GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 51:1-2

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

CORPORATE CONFESSION: (kneel as able)

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

[Silent prayer of personal confession] **Amen.**

† **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

† **THE PEACE**

† **GLORIA PATRI** (with hands lifted)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.**

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 527: "The Beatitudes"** (vv. 5-8 only)

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 103:6-14

The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the Word of our God will stand forever!

Isaiah 40:8

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: James 2:8-13

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

† **PSALM 103, NO. 6:** "O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord"

† **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-12** (sermon text)

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD:

Blessed are the Merciful

1. Mercy Defined

2. Mercy's Source

3. Mercy Shown

4. Mercy Received

† **CONFESSION OF FAITH:** Romans 12

By the mercies of God, present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God, which is our fitting service.

Do not be conformed to this age

but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

That by testing you may discern what is the will of God,

what is good and acceptable and mature.

Let no one think of himself more highly than he ought,

but think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith God has provided.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil;

Hold fast to what is good.

Love one another with brotherly affection.

Outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not be slothful in zeal.

Be fervent in the Spirit, serving the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation.

Be constant in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints,

and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you.

Bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice.

Weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; Do not be haughty,

but associate with the lowly and never be conceited.

Repay no one evil for evil,

but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves,

but give place to the wrath of God.

For it stands written:

“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

For by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head.”

Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

† DOXOLOGY (with hands lifted)

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

GOD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE

+ SURSUM CORDA

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and good, and a joyful thing, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and arch angels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing ...

+ SANCTUS

Sung in unison

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts Heav'n and earth are full_of your Glo - ry. Ho

san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he_ who_ comes_

in_ the name of the Lord our God. Ho - san - na, ho-san-na in the High - est.

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE 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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC MEDITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ

Communion Meditation Silence

Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ

Communion Song, NO. 646: "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts" (on back page)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 644: "May the Mind of Christ My Savior"**

† **BENEDICTION: 1 Timothy 1:2b**

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**