

# O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High

## Love That Spares No Cost

March 18, 2026

11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

### AS WE GATHER

God is “rich in mercy” (*Ephesians 2:4*) and “abounding in merciful love.” (*Exodus 34:6*) The enormity of God’s mercy drove St. Paul to his knees, fervently praying that others, too, might “have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.” (*Ephesians 3:18-19*) Such love and mercy stirred the souls of God’s Old Testament people as well, who exulted: “As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him...The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.” (*Psalms 103:11, 17*) Oh, how deep, how broad, how high is the love of our God!

### PRELUDE

“My Song is Love Unknown”

by Michael Burkhardt

### WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### OPENING VERSICLES

Pastor: This is the day which the Lord has made;

People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Pastor: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

People: **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and He relents from sending calamity.**

Pastor: Jesus said: "If any man would come after Me,

People: **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."**

Pastor: Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

People: **He was bruised for our iniquities.**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**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.**

# OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE (congregation sings all)



**☐** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the

*(continued on next page)*

earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -  
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the  
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son  
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will  
be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

**PSALM**

Psalm 116

**Pastor:** I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

**People:** **Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.**

**Pastor:** The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.

**People:** **Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, save me!"**

**Pastor:** The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

**People:** **The LORD protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me.**

**Pastor:** Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.

**People:** **For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling,**

**Pastor:** that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

**People:** **I believed; therefore I said, "I am greatly afflicted."**

**Pastor:** And in my dismay I said, "All men are liars."

**People:** **How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?**

**Pastor:** I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

**People:** **I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.**

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Pastor: Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

**People: O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains.**

Pastor: I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD.

**People: I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,**

**All: In the courts of the house of the LORD-- in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.**

## **PRAYER**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

God of love, You lifted up Your Son on the cross so that You could draw all people to Him. Fill us with thanksgiving for this incredible love that we dare to believe is ours. Help us to be faithful servants of Your new covenant, reaching out to all those whom You claim; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:13-21

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

## HYMN

433     Glory Be to Jesus

## THE PASSION HISTORY

Matthew 27:1-26

<sup>1</sup> Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. <sup>2</sup> They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

<sup>3</sup> When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>5</sup> So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

<sup>6</sup> The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." <sup>7</sup> So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. <sup>8</sup> That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup> Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, <sup>10</sup> and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

<sup>12</sup> When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" <sup>14</sup> But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge--to the great amazement of the governor.

<sup>15</sup> Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" <sup>18</sup> For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

<sup>19</sup> While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

<sup>20</sup> But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

<sup>21</sup> "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered.

<sup>22</sup> "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

<sup>23</sup> "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

<sup>24</sup> When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

<sup>25</sup> All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

<sup>26</sup> Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

### **RESPONSORY**

Pastor: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**People: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

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Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Pastor: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

People: **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

### APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

### HYMN

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

### SERMON

*Love That Spares No Cost*

# OFFERING

*Please stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

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Pastor: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## **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.**

## **COLLECT FOR THE WORD**

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **MORNING PRAYER (11:00 a.m.)**

**People:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## **EVENING PRAYER (6:30 p.m.)**

**People:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

**Pastor:** Let us bless the Lord.

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

**Pastor:** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**People:** **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

544 O Love, How Deep

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
Beyond all thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!
- 2 He sent no angel to our race,  
Of higher or of lower place,  
But wore the robe of human frame,  
And to this world Himself He came.
- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
He bore the shameful cross and death;  
For us He gave His dying breath.
- 6 For us He rose from death again;  
For us He went on high to reign;  
For us He sent His Spirit here  
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God  
For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
The Trinity whom we adore  
Forever and forevermore.

*Text: Public domain*

## POSTLUDE

“Et in terra pax”

By Francois Couperin

## Serving at Chapel

Preacher:		Matthew Roeglin
Liturgist:		Theodore Laesch
Organist:		Rev. Arthur Eichhorn
Acolyte:	6:30 p.m.	Eve Zvirgzdins

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