

# WHAT HAPPENED TO *THE GOOD NEWS*



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**MARCH 15, 2026**

**GATHERING**

**PRAYER FOR MEDITATION:** *Startle us, O God, with your truth, and open our minds to your Spirit, that we may be one with Christ our Lord, and serve as faithful disciples, through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**OPENING SENTENCES** (*Psalm 103:1*)

*Elder Steve Bowers*

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**ALL:** *and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.*

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Elder Steve Bowers*

**PRELUDE**

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*  
Stan Brunner

arr. John Carter

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*based on Psalm 146*)

*Elder Don Thomson*

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**ALL:** *I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to God all my life long.*

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord:

**ALL:** *Who made heaven and earth, and all that is in them.*

One: Who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

**ALL:** *The Lord sets the prisoner free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.*

One: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

**ALL:** *The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow,*

One: But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**ALL:** *The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!*

**\*HYMN: 12** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

**TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Elder Don Thomson*

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Confident of God's character, let us confess our sins together so that we might receive healing and peace.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Elder Don Thomson*

*Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become a consuming fire of judgement. Set us free from a past that we cannot change;* (continued)

*open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.*

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE**

*Elder Don Thomson*

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*Elder Don Thomson*

One: Scripture assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**ALL:** *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, GtG #39**

BUNESSAN

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning, new mercies I see.*

*All I have needed thy hand hath provided.*

*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Elder Don Thomson*

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL:** *And also with you.*

**THE WORD**

**ANTHEM**

*A Lenten Prayer*

Hopson

Chancel Choir

Macey Berry, Soprano | Helen Redding, Director

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*Callie Craig*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Elder Steve Bowers*

**\*HYMN: 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy***

IN BABILONE

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Elder Don Thomson*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Luke 2:4-15 (pg. 58)*

*Elder Steve Bowers*

One: This is the word of God for the people of God **ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

**SERMON**

*What Happened to the Good News?*

*Elder Steve Bowers*

## RESPONSE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Apostle's Creed*) *Elder Don Thomson*  
*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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

*(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center aisle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)*

**OFFERING** *Elder Don Thomson*

**OFFERTORY** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Paul Bunjes  
Stan Brunner

\*Doxology (Tune: 607) OLD HUNDREDTH  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Dedicatory Prayer *Elder Don Thomson*

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: 649** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

## SENDING

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION** *Elder Steve Bowers*

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Jesus, Keep Me Near* Purchase  
Chancel Choir

**POSTLUDE** *Reprise on "E'en So Lord Jesus"* Paul Manz  
Stan Brunner