

# Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

March 15, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

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*In worship, God speaks to us through his Word,  
and we respond with praise and prayer.*

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## **About the service:**

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

The nursery is available during the service.

The preacher is Pastor Lesli van Milligen.

The elder is Hetty Verhage.

## **After the service:**

We invite you to join us for coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

At approximately 11:50 a.m. everyone is invited to a sermon discussion guided by Pastor Lesli van Milligen.

## We prepare for worship

### Reflection

“Mercy detached from justice grows unmerciful.”

C.S. Lewis

### Prelude

## Jesus walks alongside us into worship

### Welcome and introduction — Hetty Verhage

#### \*Call to worship — Psalm 86:5; Micah 6:8; Psalm 89:14; Psalm 85:10-13 (Julia Smith Tran.)

— Hetty Verhage

Leader: Our LORD is good, and ready to forgive, sending our sins away, letting them go completely and forever. The LORD is abundant in mercy and loving-kindness to all those who call upon Him

.People: How shall we call upon the LORD and come before Him?

Leader: The LORD has shown us what is good. What does the LORD require of us but to do justly, and to love kindness and mercy and to walk humbly with our God?

People: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne, O God; mercy and loving-kindness and truth go before Your face.

Leader: Mercy and truth met together; justice and peace kissed. Truth will spring up from the earth, and justice looked forth from the heavens. The LORD will give good, and our land shall give her produce. Justice shall go before Him, and shall set to the way of His steps. Come to Jesus; He is the Way. Let us worship.

#### \*Opening song — LUYH 65 (PsH 85) — Psalm 85: *LORD, You Lavished on Your Land*

#### \*God's greeting — Hetty Verhage

#### \*Song of praise — LUYH 559 — *Ten Thousand Reasons*

##### *Refrain*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;  
worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;  
I'll worship your holy name.

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
it's time to sing your song again.  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Refrain*

2. You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.  
Your name is great, and your heart is kind.  
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing—  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

*Refrain*

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near, and my time has come;  
still, my soul will sing your praise unending—  
ten thousand years and then forevermore!

*Refrain x2*

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**Call to repentance** — Blessed are the merciful — from Matthew 25 — Suzanne Christie

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

<sup>41</sup> “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

<sup>44</sup> “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

<sup>45</sup> “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

<sup>46</sup> “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

**Prayer of confession** — Pastor Lesli van Milligen

**Song of confession** — LUYH 700 — *Your Mercy Flows*

Your mercy flows upon us like a river.  
Your mercy stands unshakable and true.  
Most holy God, of all good things the giver,  
we turn and lift our fervent prayer to you.  
Hear our cry, (Hear our cry,)  
O Lord, (O Lord,)  
be merciful (be merciful)  
once more. (once more.)  
Let your love, (Let your love,)  
your anger stem; (your anger stem;)  
remember mercy, O Lord, again.

Words: Wes Sutton (b. 1955) © 1988 Sovereign Lifestyle Music, Ltd.

**Assurance of forgiveness** — Pastor Lesli van Milligen

**Children's message** — Nicholas Chuba

Children ages 3–10 are invited to gather in the front for the Children's message. Visitors' children are welcome!

**\*Song of affirmation** — LUYH 709 (PsH 571) — *Jesus Loves Me*

## Jesus opens the Scriptures

**Prayer of illumination** — Pastor Lesli van Milligen

**Scripture readings** — Matthew 5:7, Luke 10:25-37 (p in pew Bible) — Pastor Lesli van Milligen

### Matthew 5

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

### Luke 10

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on

his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon** — *Where Justice and Mercy Meet*— Pastor Lesli van Milligen

## Jesus breaks bread and gives us himself

**\*Song of response** — LUYH 296 — *We Are Called*

1. Come! Live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

*Refrain*

We are called to act with justice,  
we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
so hatred and blindness will be no more.

*Refrain*

3. Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other  
as sisters and brothers united in love.

*Refrain*

Words: David Haas (b. 1957) © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

**Prayers of God's people** — Hetty Verhage

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper** — Pastor Lesli van Milligen

“Through the water of baptism, all the baptized turn to Christ and participate in his death, renounce the delusions of a world governed by the fear of death, and become Christ's risen presence in the

world. At the Lord's table, the company of the baptized enacts its vision of the kingdom of God, a new world of truth-telling, justice, freedom, and love. And the church orders itself sacramentally to live out its true calling: a life of apostolic witness, of formation in discipleship, and of service to the poor." (From the Huron Statement)

**The Institution:** from 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Minister: We give thanks to God the Father that our Saviour, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of this sacrifice, until he comes again. "The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Cor. 11:23-26

**Prayer of Consecration**

Minister: Let us proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament.  
All: Christ has died; Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

**Preparation of the Elements**

Minister: The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the same loaf.  
Minister: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.  
People: The cup which we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.

**The Invitation**

Minister: Congregation in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who believe in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, and who desire to live in obedience to him, are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.

**The Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Minister: Father we bless you and praise you for your constant love as we experience it in this meal, in the death, resurrection and reign of your Son Jesus who continues to pray for us and in your Holy Spirit who continues to lead us into your truth.  
All: In thanks for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, in the joy of his resurrection and in the hope of his coming again, we present ourselves a living sacrifice to the table of our Lord.  
Minister: The gifts of God for the People of God.

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**The communion:** We invite you to come forward to receive the elements. For those receiving the elements in the pews, an Elder will bring them to you. Please partake of the elements in the way that best helps you experience communion with our Lord.

**Communion song** — LUYH 141 — *We Are People on a Journey*

1. We are people on a journey; pain is with us all the way.

*Refrain*

Joyfully we come together at the holy feast of God.

Joyfully we come together at the holy feast of God.

2. God has sent the invitation to the humble and the poor.

*Refrain*

3. This is bread that God provides us, nourishing our unity.

*Refrain*

4. Christ is ever present with us to unite us all in love.

*Refrain*

5. All who truly thirst for justice seek their liberation here.

*Refrain*

Words: *La Misa Popular Nicaragüense*, 20th c.; tr. Carolyn Jennings (b. 1936) © 1993 The Pilgrim Press

*My Saviour Jesus (Monjiam Isa)*

My Saviour Jesus, my glorious King,  
with all of my heart I'll praise you and sing  
O Hallelujah x 4

In sorrow and grief, though they rend us through  
the comfort that heals comes only from you  
O Hallelujah x 4

A promise you made to return and reign  
your children recalled to your arms again  
O Hallelujah x 4  
I will sing O Hallelujah

**Prayer of thanksgiving** — Pastor Lesli van Milligen

**God blesses us as we go to serve**

**\*Benediction** — Pastor Lesli van Milligen

**\*Closing song** — LUYH 689 — *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment given.
  
2. For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind;  
and the heart of the eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful,  
let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving  
for the goodness of the Lord.

Words: Frederick Faber, adapt. Gregg DeMey © 2008 Re:Create Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

## **Postlude**

### **Today's offering:**

1<sup>st</sup> offering — Church ministries

2<sup>nd</sup> offering — Diaconate