Prelude: With influences from Italian organ writing of the day, this adagio by Johann Sebastian Bach could have been written for a string instrument and harpsichord accompaniment. A plaintive or mournful melody is heard first, and four-part writing concludes this movement from Bach's "Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue."

Welcome and Announcements
Please stand.

Invocation
A Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness
P Let us return to God with all our hearts, confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection.

P Gracious God,
C we confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. Sin holds us captive. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P Through water and the Word, Spirit and saving Son, we are cleansed from sin, joined with the communion of saints, and brought to new and abundant life. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Entrance Hymn 324
"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"
Rathbun

Apostolic Greeting
A Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation. May the grace of God, through Jesus Christ—our crucified and risen Savior—be with you all.
C And also with you.

Kyrie: During the season of Lent, we turn to Setting 1 of Holy Communion from the red hymnal. We sing the Kyrie remove the Canticle of Praise as signs of these penitential weeks.
Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

OT page 702 in the pew Bible

My soul is thirsting - for you, O Lord, thirsting - for you my God.

Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. Refrain sung by all.

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. Refrain sung by all.

3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. Refrain sung by all.

4. So I will bless you all my life, in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. Refrain sung by all.

First Reading: To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness because God’s ways are not our ways.
Second Reading: Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

Gospel Acclamation: During the penitential season of Lent, "alleluia!" meaning "praise the Lord!" is omitted from the liturgy. A sung verse replaces the typical three-fold acclamation.

Gospel: Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

Evening Hymn: Today Jesus tells his disciples that those who died when the tower of Siloam fell were not guilty of a worse sin than any others living at the time. Like Christ's first disciples, we often limit God's grace. In stanza three of this hymn, we sing of this truth: "But we make [God's] love too narrow by false limits of our own."

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the Church

Evening Hymn 587

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Stanza 1 – Cantor 2-4 – All

St. Helena
Sharing of the Peace

P  The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C  And also with you.

Please be seated.

Offering

Offering Voluntary

Meditation on HAMBURG
David Cherwien

Please stand.

Offering Presentation 188

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

P  Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
C  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.
P  Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and
    abounding in steadfast love.
C  Let us receive the bread of life and cup of salvation.

Please be seated.

Communion

Please stand.

Blessing

A  The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C  Amen.

Benediction

A  May God, who has called us forth from the dust of the earth and claimed us as
    children of the light, strengthen you with His Word of life. The Lord bless you
    and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord
    look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of
    the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C  Amen.

Sending Hymn 803

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Hamburg

Dismissal

A  Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C  Thanks be to God!

Lent is a season of confession, repentance, and return to God’s Word.
During Lent, we omit postludes to reflect the penitential nature of the season.