

Concordia Lutheran Church & St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Morning Worship for The Sundays in Lent
March 7, 2021

Topic: The Third Sunday in Lent

Time: Sunday, March 7, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82324470555?pwd=Z3dCRVpwSlpjaTRZWlQvRHpmalUhXdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 2447 0555

Password: 0000

Use your telephone to call this number and enter the ID and Password.

You will be able to speak and to hear the service.

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Introduction to the Day: The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

PRELUDE: Christe, Redemptor Omnium

C.H.H. Parry; *John Anderson, organ*

THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP – THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER from the Book of Common Prayer

Reverend Johnson

Blessed be God, the Father, the Son ✠, and the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(First John 1:8,9)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A moment of silence

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ ✝,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, **have mercy upon us. Amen.**

HYMN

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

John Anderson, organ

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favor I go astray;
so take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,
then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Marschhausen

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

The First Reading – Exodus 20:1-17

Reader from St. Mary's

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Verse for the Day – (*First Corinthians 1:23, 24*)

Reverend Johnson

We proclaim Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The Epistle Reading – First Corinthians 1:18-25

Reader from Concordia

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

The Holy Gospel – John 2:13-22

Deacon Fedorchak proclaims the Gospel...

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. ***Glory to you, O Lord.***

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Reverend Johnson

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor Marschhausen

Together with all the baptized in Christ, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again;

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

A Reader from Concordia

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy, your love and compassion. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering. Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor and grant your healing to all who are sick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to our congregations and our leaders, so that together we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our lives, separate or shared, that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION...

Reverend Johnson

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

I am baptized into your death and resurrection.

I seek you daily. I worship and adore you.

Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine,

I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul,
as you always have,

through Confession and Forgiveness,
through the proclamation of your holy Word,
and through the prayers of your people;

that I may remain united to you

by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.

Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace.

Be for me the manna in my wilderness,

the bread of angels for my very human journey through time,

a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,

and solace in the hour of my death.

And return us all, Lord Jesus, to your Holy Table when this is over.

I pray all this, trusting that you are our life,

our peace, and our everlasting joy. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS *Intercessions and Thanksgivings follow...* *Pastor Marschhausen*

Now I invite your prayers for all the needs of the world God so loved, silently or aloud.

After each petition we pray, Lord, in your mercy. Hear our Prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Reverend Johnson

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; *N. and N.* God mercifully grant you the riches of grace, that you may please God both in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Marschhausen

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Reverend Johnson

You are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works,

chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Kelly Sharp, piano

- 1 Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
- 2 When my way grows . . drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is . . . al-most . . gone.
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
- 3 When the dark - ness appears and the night draws . . near,
When my life . . is . . . al-most gone,
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Deacon Winzler dismisses the assembly...

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

NOTES:

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DAILY READINGS FOR MARCH 8-13

Monday, March 8

Psalm 84
1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22
1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Wednesday, March 10

Psalm 84
Ezra 6:1-16
Mark 11:15-19

Friday, March 12

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Daniel 12:5-13
Ephesians 1:7-14

Tuesday, March 9

Psalm 84
2 Chronicles 29:1-11,
16-19
Hebrews 9:23-28

Thursday, March 11

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Genesis 9:8-17
Ephesians 1:3-6

Saturday, March 13

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Numbers 20:22-29
John 3:1-13