



March 3, 2024

The Third Sunday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

♪ My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
~On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

♪ When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. ~On Christ,...

♪ His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. ~On Christ,...

♪ When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! ~On Christ,....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 575- Text: Edward Mote 1797-1874;
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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.

Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good;

According to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

Psalms 69:14-16

Confession and Absolution

Though this is a house of prayer, we do not always honor God’s house as we should. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us ever into His house to ask for forgiveness.

A Time of Silence

Heavenly Father,

We have sinned against You and against our neighbors. 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. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world to forgive us by His death and resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. We are forgiven because of Christ crucified.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Kyrie

O Lord,

Have mercy on us.

O Christ,

Have mercy on us.

O Lord,

Have mercy on us.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

Exodus 20:1–17

¹And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to 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. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

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

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Gradual Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

♪ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

♪ Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

♪ Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,

Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,

Only Thou are holy; there is none beside Thee, Perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.

♪ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 507-Text: Reginald Heber 1783-1826;

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Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

John 2:13–25

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore 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.

²³Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

Nicene Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn *Music: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed", Hymn 437* "As Jesus Graced"

- ♪ As Jesus graced the temple courts He found corruption's stain
As vile thieves sought to extort His Father's house for gain.
- ♪ Propelled then by a righteous rage He drove the vermin out.
Up turning tables, unassuaged, He taught them with a shout.
- ♪ Remember well Isaiah's call, "My house shall now be named:
A house of prayer for one and all, For ev'ry nation's claim."
- ♪ Yet you have made this house of prayer A den of thieves and cheats.
Be now evicted from your lair, Reclaimed for godly feats.
- ♪ The scribes and Pharisees devised A plan for Jesus' end.
His death and agony they prized. His martyrdom they penned.
- ♪ But in their ignorance and spite, They failed to hear His claim.
He was the greater temple site, Whom death could not contain.

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Proclamation of the Word

"The Bold Disruption"

John 2:13–25

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

On our hearts imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace.

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalm 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn *Music: "On my Heart Imprint Your Image," Hymn 422*

♪ Holy, holy, holy Jesus, Blessed Lord and King of all.
In Your pow'r and might come free us From the devil's lies and thrall.
Let our proclamation be Sweet hosannas unto Thee.
As we journey through Lent's wasteland, Hold us in Your scarred, yet graced hand.

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Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei Hymn *Music: "On my Heart Imprint Your Image," Hymn 422*

♪ Lamb of God, for sinners given, In Your nail-pierced hands is balm.
Lamb of God, for sinners riven, In Your cross is peace and calm.
Let this proclamation rise: "I am baptized into Christ,"
Is my ward and my protection, And my death and resurrection.

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Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"The Old Rugged Cross"

♪ On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
~So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.
♪ O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. ~So I'll cherish...
♪ In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. ~So I'll cherish...
♪ To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. ~So I'll cherish....

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn, 186 -Text & Tune: George Bennard 1873-1958; ©1913 George Bennard,
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on You and + give You peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

- ♪ Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
- ♪ Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.
- ♪ Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.
- ♪ Make me to walk in Thy commands- 'Tis a delightful road-
Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.

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Postlude