## Third Sunday in Lent

## ~ March 3, 2024 ~ Faith & First

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness LBW pg. 56 ELW pg. 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”***  LBW #104 ELW #324

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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.

**Greeting** LBW pg. 57 ELW pg. 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie** LBW pg. 57ELW pg. 138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer of the Day**

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.

**First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17**

*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.*

Then God spoke all these words,

**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 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. **5**You shall not bow down to them or serve 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 **6**but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

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

**8**“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. **9**Six days you shall labor and do all your work. **10**But 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. **11**For 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.

**12**“Honor your father and your mother, so 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, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

**Psalm 19**

**1**The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

**2One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

**3**Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

**4their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

**5**It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**6It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes.**

**7**The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**8The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and give light to the eyes.**

**9**The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**10More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes.**

11By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12Who can detect one’s own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes.**

**Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

*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.*

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

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

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

**Gospel Acclamation**  LBW Page 62 ELW pg. 142

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and

Merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in

Steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

**Gospel:** **John 2:13-22**

*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 ad resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.*

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

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“How Great Thou Art”***  LBW #532 ELW #856

Vs. 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty

thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

***Refrain:  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou***

***art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to***

***thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!***

Vs. 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the

birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain

grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him

to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my burden gladly

bearing he bled and died to take away my sin; ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me

home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble ado-

ration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" ***[Refrain]***

**Apostles’ Creed** LBW pg. 65ELW pg. 105

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.

**Prayers of the People**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation and the world in need.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists and public health workers who prevent and treat illnesses. We pray for those who are sick especially

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**.

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** LBW #410ELW #686

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 144

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“God of Grace and God of Glory***” LBW #415 ELW #705

Vs. 1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people

pour your pow'r, crown your ancient church's story;  
 bring its bud to glorious flow'r. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
 for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Vs. 2 Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, as-

sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
 for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Vs.3 Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to

your control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Vs. 4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils

we deplore; let the gift of your salvation  
 be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
 serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**

Music and words reprinted under CCLI #1242177