



# Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ***



**The Third Sunday of Lent  
Sunday, March 4, 2018**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

**C: Amen.**

P: *(A brief silence.)* Merciful God,

**C: you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**P:** Behold now is the acceptable time;  
now is the day of salvation. Almighty  
God have mercy on us, forgive us all  
our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN *“Be Thou My Vision”***

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

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.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

**P:** 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 ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction.

They 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.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)* Holy God,

**C:** **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.**

# Children's Church

## **FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17**

A reading from Exodus, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. 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.

You 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, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. 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.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 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. 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. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You 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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **A Responsive Reading From Psalm 19**

**R:** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

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

R: Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

**C: their 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.**

R: It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. It 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 teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**C: The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

R: The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**C: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

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

**C: Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

**R:** Above 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.

**C:** **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

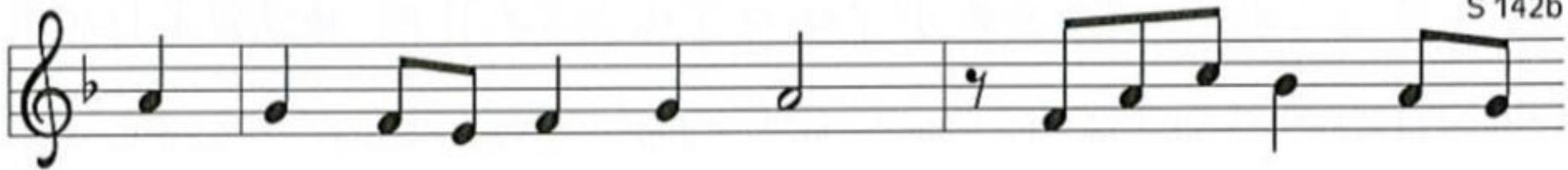
The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For 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. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **GOSPEL: John 2:13-22**

**P:** The holy gospel according to John,  
the second chapter.

**C: *Glory to you, O Lord.***

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

Making 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. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

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.

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

# **SERMON**

**“Commandments and the Cross”**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“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 your 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 your way,  
restore your wand'ring sheep.**

**Make me to walk in your commands,  
'tis a delightful road;  
nor let my head or heart or hands  
offend against my God.**

# **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 INTERCESSION

**P:** Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence.)* We pray for the church. Lead us faithfully in the way of the cross. Unite us as one body in Christ. Empower us with courage to speak out against injustice and greed, demonstrating with our words and bodies the love of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for the world. For sheep, cattle, and all domesticated livestock. For wild creatures, service animals, and pets. Provide shelter, food, and safe drinking water for every living creature. Protect the earth from disaster and harm. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for the nations. Teach us to honor one another as you command. Protect refugees and immigrants fleeing from their homes in search of safety and freedom. Guide lawmakers, peacekeepers, and all who work toward reconciliation and justice.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for those in need. For those who lack what they need for daily life. For people whose lives are consumed by their possessions. For those who grieve, and for all who are ill (*especially*).

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and for their families, sponsors, and faith mentors. For Bible study leaders and participants. For our elders in thanksgiving for the depth of wisdom and experience they offer. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We remember with gratitude those who have gone before us (*especially*). Inspire us by their witness and example. Bring us with them into the joy of eternal life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Trusting in your covenant of mercy,  
O God, we lift our prayers to you,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

# **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P:** The Peace of Christ be with you.

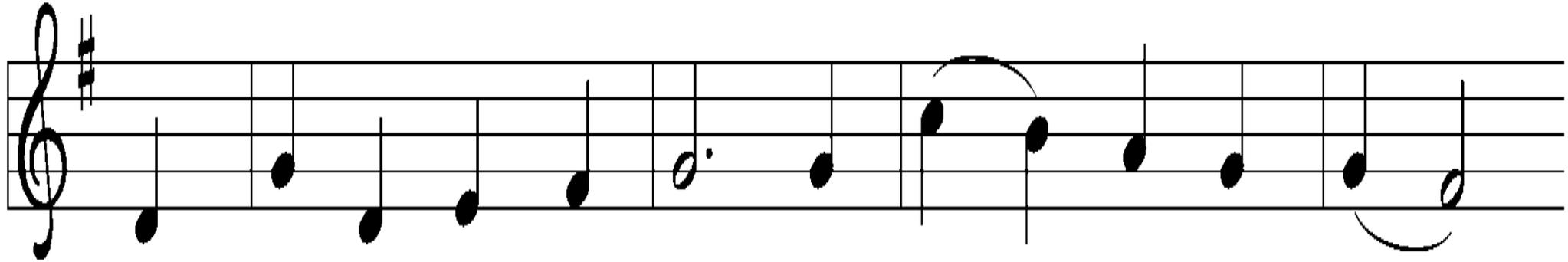
**C:** **And also with you.**

***OFFERING***

**~VIDEO DURING OFFERING ~**

***“Come As You Are”* by Crowder**

## Offertory Response



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

# OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C: Amen.**

# DIALOGUE

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 and praise to the  
Lord our God.

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

# **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

# **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**P:** Almighty God, Father, † Son,  
and Holy Spirit, bless you now  
and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN** *“Choral Benediction”*

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May it show us where to travel,**

**lead us back if we should stray.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.  
May the peace of God be with us today.  
May it guide us and protect us,  
as we go our separate ways.  
May the peace of God be with us today.**

# **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



















