

Dennison & Vang Lutheran Parish

Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 7, 2021



GATHERING

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, and Confession and Forgiveness begins)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gracious God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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. **Amen.**

God of mercy,

**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 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.**

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. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

Greeting

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie – “Come and Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace”

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Alleluia

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17

Then God spoke 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.

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; or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19

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

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

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

⁴**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.**

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

⁶**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.**

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

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

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

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

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

¹²**Who 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.

¹⁴**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

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 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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to 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.

Sermon

Song of the Day

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory – Hymn #186 – “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free spirit.*

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome at the Lord’s table.

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Sending Song

Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God

Announcements

Lenten Forums

The traditional disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, and works of love. One way we will live this out during Lent this year is by offering two adult forums.

Life at the Border (Wednesday, March 10, 6:00 PM at Vang): In January of last year, a group from Vang traveled to El Paso, TX and heard firsthand accounts of life at the border. We have put together some videos about the experience. Come for conversation, the hear about the amazing work being done by ELCA churches in the area, and to hear stories of people who seek to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God” in our borderlands.

The Ethics of Care: Understanding Racism (Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 PM at Vang) Talking about race is not easy. It takes courage to try. But when we do so not from a place of guilt or shame, but from a place of empathy, compassion, and humility, good things can happen. Come hear a clear and concise video presentation from a University of Minnesota Distinguished Professor of Family Therapy about what racism is, what it isn't, and how you can be a part of the healing.

Worship Schedule:

Sunday, March 14 -

Worship at Vang – 9:00 AM **Reader: Louise Star**

Special Prayers for: Liala Hedstrom, Danny Brockton, Bob Mitchell, Nick Iverson, Norma Sands, Lowell Anderson Larry Buchta, Tim Larson, LuAnn Lervik, Stanley Nord, Suncha Buchta, Chuck Wells, all of our homebound people, service members and their families, and for all those in need of healing and strength.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

God's Love Is Not for Sale

The trouble isn't that there are people buying and selling animals and exchanging money in the temple. Those things have always happened in the temple. No one is being corrupt; no one is getting rich. These are facets of temple life that exist to uphold God's law.

The trouble is that something has gone haywire: we have allowed our experience of the marketplace to shape the way we see God; if I give God this, God will give me that. Instead of God informing our understanding of the marketplace, it has come to be the other way around. Jesus has come to turn this haywire understanding on its head.

In the face of trouble, promising to give God something as a down payment will not make God any more likely to come to your aid. God has already come and made a home with you in your trouble.

In the face of death, bargaining with God will not attract God's favor for you, because God is already there. Your death is forever wedded to Christ's death, and likewise your resurrection to his resurrection.

In the face of helplessness, negotiating with God for help is useless because God was your helper long before you even asked.

Do you see? God's love is not to be bought or sold, only given freely and lavishly, even to those who could never pay if they wanted to.

As a result, the body of Christ today, the church, sets out to live in ways that are unfathomable to the modern-day market. We spend our communal life on hungry people who will never be able to invite us to their own tables, and on children who cannot contribute to our offering plate, on dying people who after receiving our most prized treasures are not there to enjoy them. Our life is senseless lived by the rules of the marketplace. Thanks be to God that Christ comes to overturn it.

