

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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"Equipping Disciples to Make Disciples for Jesus"



Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday March 7, 2021 8:30 a.m.

As We Gather

When the Israelites were encamped by Mount Sinai, just out of slavery in Egypt and far from the Promised Land, God wisely gave them the Ten Commandments. They are engraved in our historic churches and capitol buildings. Their perfect demands require a Savior for us. Jesus was so jealous for God's Law that He cleansed the temple before cleansing us of our sin by giving the temple of His body. In His wisdom, God did what we could not: He kept His own Law for us and then chose us to be the Body of Christ today. None of us has kept the commandments; we and our spiritual ancestors reflect our weaknesses in faith and action. But in the process, God's wisdom shows forth: When we are weak, He is strong. Today is a day to boast about God's grace and His Son, Christ crucified, the power and wisdom of God.

PREPARATION

Opening Hymn

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

LSB #423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Tune and text: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

- P** Today's Psalm, Psalm 19, informs our preparation for worship this morning. First, it celebrates the glory of God's creation.

Psalm

Psalm 19:1–6

- P** The heavens declare the glory of God,
- C** **and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.**

- P** Day to day pours out speech,
- C** **and night to night reveals knowledge.**

- P** There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.
- C** **Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

- P** In them He has set a tent for the sun,
- C** **which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**

- P** Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
- C** **and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

- P** Continuing Psalm 19, the psalmist considers God's perfect Law.

Psalm

Psalm 19:7–11

- P** The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
- C** **the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;**

- P** the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
- C** **the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;**

- P** the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
- C** **the just decrees of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.**

- P** More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
C **sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

- P** Moreover, by them is Your servant warned;
C **in keeping them there is great reward.**

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 19:12–14

- P** When we use the Ten Commandments and other parts of the moral code as a mirror, we see that we have fallen from the perfection of God's good creation and His perfect Law. Who can discern his errors?
C **Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**
- P** Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;
C **let them not have dominion over me!**
- P** Our gracious Lord has promised full and free forgiveness to all who call out to our heavenly Father in His name. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
C **O God, we confess that we have sinned against You and one another in our thinking, speaking, and acting. Worse, in our fallen nature, we are sinful and unclean, and in the eyes of many we are weak, lowly people. But because You have graciously chosen us and worked faith in our hearts, we humbly ask for mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive, renew, and lead us in paths of righteousness.**
- P** The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. We preach Christ crucified, and for us the word of the cross is the power of God. 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.
C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**
- P** Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
C **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

WORD

Kyrie

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of God’s whole creation, for the well-being of all whom He has chosen to preach Christ crucified, 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 thanks for the blessings that flow from the cross of Christ, 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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1–17 (ESV)

The Ten Commandments

¹ And 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. ⁵ You 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, ⁶ but 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. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but 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. ¹¹ For 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."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31 (ESV)

The foolish wisdom of God

¹⁸ For 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. 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 2:13–22 (ESV)

The Temple Cleansing

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And 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. ¹⁶ And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,**

**the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;**

**who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;**

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven**

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

Spread the Reign of God the Lord

LSB #830



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!

6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Spring Cleaning

John 2:13-22

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for people everywhere in their various circumstances.

P O Lord, our jealous God, save the third and fourth generations that will come after us from Your punishment by filling us with Your Son's zeal for Your house in these Lenten days,

C **that we may cast out every idol from our hearts and love only You and Your commandments.**

P O Lord, our God, You have brought us out of slavery to sin through Christ Jesus, whom You have made to be our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

C **Bless all those whom You send to preach Christ crucified to us, that we may ever know and live in the truth of Your power in His cross.**

P Heavenly Father, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in Your fear,

C **and that children would honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life.**

P O Lord of the perfect Law, You have called us to honor our parents and all other authorities, that it might go well with us in our land. Bless our nation's leaders and all those who watch over and govern us in Your stead.

C **Make them wise in Your ways, that Your justice may be upheld among us, and help us to serve and obey them in accord with Your will.**

P O God, whose steadfast love in Christ is good, turn in Your abundant mercy to *(names)* and all who suffer in our midst, that the flood may not sweep over them nor the pit close its mouth on them.

C **Deliver them from sinking into the mire and deep waters, and grant them healing, comfort and peace.**

P O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, as three days after the temple of Your Son's body was destroyed by wicked men He raised it up again,

C **grant that on the Last Day we and all the saints who now rest in Your presence may share in the glory of His resurrection.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

SACRAMENT

Lord' Prayer

C **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.**

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Distribution Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

LSB #770



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Tune and text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Benediction

Closing Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LSB #427



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
 mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Tune and text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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