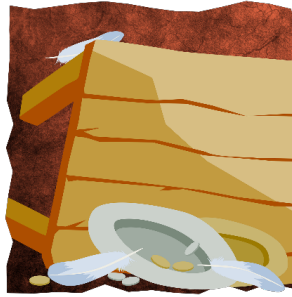


THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 3, 2024 8:30 am



FOR THOSE DESIRING HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)

THINK ABOUT THIS

We focus our attention on Christ crucified. The apostle Paul tells us that this is a stumbling block and foolishness to some people. Yet Paul also reminds us that for us who are being saved, Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. We may face people in our lives who view us as foolish. God in His wisdom sent Jesus to die for you.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“All Who Are Thirsty”

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse)

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

**All who are thirsty,
All who are weak,
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy.
As deep cries out to deep**

Holy Spirit, come....

Come, Lord Jesus, come...

WELCOME

INVOCATION *(Please stand)*

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

God invites us to gather in His name.

We are gathered to worship and praise.

Our heavenly Father’s house is a house of prayer for all the nations.

He gathers people from every corner of the earth to sing His praises.

We listen to God’s Word.

We hear the message proclaimed of Christ crucified.

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.

Silence for reflection.

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. Disrupt our sinfulness. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world, not only to disrupt our sinfulness but also 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.

SONG "Lord, You Are"

(Repeat)

**Lord you are more precious than silver,
Lord you are more costly than gold,
Lord you are more beautiful than diamonds,
And nothing I desire compares with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, in righteousness You disrupted the sinful lives of those in the temple, pointing them to the purpose of Your Father's house. Disrupt our sinful lives so that our church would be a home of prayer for all the nations; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(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 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸The 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. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 2:13–22 *(Please stand)*

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

**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.**

Children's Hymn of the Month "The Children Cry Hosanna" *(Please be seated)*

**The children shout, "Hosanna!"
And the men cry out, "Hosanna!"
And the women cry "Hosanna!"
O King of Israel.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name
Who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name
Who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**And the babies cry, "Hosanna!"
And the old men cry, "Hosanna!"
Everybody shouts "Hosanna!"
O King of Israel.**

OBJECT LESSON

SONG "Love is Here"

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

**Come to the water, you who thirst, and you'll thirst no more.
Come to the Father, you who work, and you'll work no more.
And all you who labor in vain, and to the broken and shamed,**

Chorus:

**Love is here, love is now, love is pouring from
His hands, from His brow.
Love is near, it satisfies.
Streams of mercy flowing from His side,
Cause love is here.**

**Come to the Treasure, you who search, and you'll search no more.
Come to the Lover, you who want, and you'll want no more.
And all you who labor in vain, and to the broken and shamed.
Chorus:**

Bridge:

**And to the bruised and fallen, captives, bound, and brokenhearted.
He is the Lord, He is the Lord,
By His stripes He's paid our ransom,
From his wounds we drink salvation.
He is the Lord, He is the Lord.**

Chorus:

MESSAGE "Why Do We Believe in Jesus?" (John 2:13-22)

OFFERING

PRAYERS *(Please stand)*

LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

(Visitors, please read the statement at the beginning of this service folder.)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

**Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.**

**Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.**

**Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world
give us Your peace.**

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER *(Please be seated)*

SONG "Full Attention"

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Ending)

**May Your voice be louder
And may Your voice be clearer
Than all the others, than all the others
And may Your face be dearer
And may Your words be sweeter
Than all the others
Than all the others in my life**

Chorus:

**Please keep my eyes fixed on You
Please root my heart so deep in You
Keep me abiding keep me abiding
Keep me abiding that I
Oh, that I may bear fruit**

**And may Your presence be truer
And may Your presence be nearer
Than all the others, than all the others
And may Your light shine brighter
And may Your love move deeper
Than all the others
Than all the others in my life Chorus**

Ending Chorus:

**Please keep my eyes fixed on You
Please root my heart so deep in You
Keep me asking keep me kneeling
Keep me abiding that I
Oh, that I may bear fruit**

SONG "Freely, Freely"

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)

**God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
And in Jesus' name I come to you.
To share His love as He told me to.**

Chorus:

**He said, "Freely, freely you have received;
Freely, freely give.
Go in my name; and because you believe,
Others will know that I live."**

**All power is given in Jesus' name,
In earth and heaven, in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His power as He told me to. Chorus**

PRAYER OF THANKS *(Please stand)*

...

Amen

BLESSING

SONG "In Christ Alone" *(Please be seated)*

(4 Verses)

**In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!**

LEAVING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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