

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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St. John's **celebrates** God's love,
Proclaims the Gospel and
Serves our neighbors.



Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 7, 2021

11:00 am Facebook Live and YouTube

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.

* = Please Stand

Prelude

*Above All
How Great Is Our God*

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Perry

Welcome First Time Worshipers

***Opening Song**

You Have Shown Us

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P. Disciples of Jesus, as we follow Jesus through these 40 days before Easter, we need God's help to see what's wrong in our lives and change. We don't like to be offended; we like everything to go our way. But God's way is rarely our way, and may offend us. Let's take a deep breath to lower our defensiveness and ask God to show us a new way.

(Silence for Reflection)

C. **God, we're sorry we get so defensive when you ask us to change. Thank you for loving us enough to show us a new way. Give me the strength to let go of those things that keep me from fully following your way. Amen.**

P. Because Jesus lived faithfully according to God's plan and was raised from the dead, we too have the strength to change and follow God's way. Praise God, we are set free to live for God alone in Jesus. Amen.

C. **Amen**

***The Sharing of the Peace**

***Prayer of the Day**

P. Let us pray.

C. **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.**

A Reading from Exodus 20:1-17

¹⁻² GOD spoke all these words:

I am GOD, your God,

who brought you out of the land of Egypt,

out of a life of slavery.

³No other gods, only me.

⁴⁻⁶No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because *I* am GOD, your God, and I'm a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I'm unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷No using the name of GOD, your God, in curses or silly banter; GOD won't put up with the irreverent use of his name.

⁸⁻¹¹Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to GOD, your God. Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days GOD made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on the seventh day. Therefore GOD blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a holy day.

¹²Honor your father and mother so that you'll live a long time in the land that God, your God, is giving you.

¹³No murder.

¹⁴No adultery.

¹⁵No stealing.

¹⁶No lies about your neighbor.

¹⁷No lusting after your neighbor's house—or wife or servant or maid or ox or donkey. Don't set your heart on anything that is your neighbor's.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸⁻²¹The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written,

I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head,

I'll expose so-called experts as crackpots.

So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense? Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered dumb—*preaching*, of all things!—to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

²²⁻²⁵While Jews clamor for miraculous demonstrations and Greeks go in for philosophical wisdom, we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an *anti*-miracle—and Greeks pass it off as absurd. But to us who are personally called by God himself—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one. Human wisdom is so tinny, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel according to John 2:13-22

¹³⁻¹⁴When the Passover Feast, celebrated each spring by the Jews, was about to take place, Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem. He found the Temple teeming with people selling cattle and sheep and doves. The loan sharks were also there in full strength.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple, stampeding the sheep and cattle,

upending the tables of the loan sharks, spilling coins left and right. He told the dove merchants, "Get your things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a shopping mall!" That's when his disciples remembered the Scripture, "Zeal for your house consumes me."

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ But the Jews were upset. They asked, "What credentials can you present to justify this?" Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple and in three days I'll put it back together."

²⁰⁻²² They were indignant: "It took forty-six years to build this Temple, and you're going to rebuild it in three days?" But Jesus was talking about his body as the Temple. Later, after he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this. They then put two and two together and believed both what was written in Scripture and what Jesus had said.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Song *Better Is One Day*

Sermon Zeal for God's House Pastor Perry

The Apostles' Creed Page 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 Church

Each petition ends...Lord, in your mercy,

Response: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

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Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Tithes and Offerings *Alas and Did My Savior Bleed*

***Offering Prayer**

Prayer of Confidence in Christ

My Lord Jesus, I believe that You are present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. Embrace me and unite me wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

***Blessing**

***Closing Song** *How Can I Keep from Singing*

Dismissal

Go in peace! Serve the Lord! Thanks be to God.

March 7, 2021

**Worship Leaders
11:00 am**

Pastor: Peter Perry
Streaming: Kaleb Goslin
Sound: Zoey Goslin
Altar Care: Barb Kapla
Lector: Nancy Snell
PowerPoint: Dave Beard
Band: Tracy Williams
Bill Cox
Garry Hudson
Suzanne Darby
Charlie Van

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