

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 7, 2021**



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: “Open the Eyes of My Heart” Michael W. Smith**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwKCvuorI9E>

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

P: **Amen.**

L: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,

P: **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as hearers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

P: **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.**

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

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses the divine name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>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.

### **PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 19**

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

<sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>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.

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

<sup>6</sup>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.

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

<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

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

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

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

<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.

<sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>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**

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>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? <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jewish people was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Judeans then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Judeans then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>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.



**SERMON: “A Church Building Is Not Our Sanctuary-Christ Is” Pastor Jerome Evavold**

**SONG: “The Church Song” Jay Beech You Tube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDEBx5YvL9U>

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING SONG: “Go Light Your World” Chris Rice**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Frobrm1t61A>

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

On this third Sunday in Lent, let our prayer reflect the guidance of the Ten Commandments. We respond to each petition with the words “grant us your wisdom, O God.”

### *A brief silence.*

O God, our lawgiver, our temple, our wisdom, form your church to worship you alone. Bless our bishops for their ministry in church and world. You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Protect all who call upon the power of your name. Bless all the baptized who suffer for their faith. You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Even during this pandemic, connect us in diverse ways to our worshiping communities, and give to all persons regular rest from their work. You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Bless with wisdom all parents and any who are granted authority over others, and give to children the will to honor those who care for them. You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Keep the nations of the earth from engaging in war, bloodshed, and torture, and help people of all ages to resist the lure of violence. You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Uphold marriages and all commitments of care, and defend all persons, especially children, from sexual abuse. You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Guard your earth, its animals and its plant life from all who would take for themselves more than they need.. You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Train the diverse peoples of our nation to respect one another. Bless all who work to end discrimination and the oppression of the vulnerable. You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Use our bounty to meet the needs of others, those who are homeless or hungry, and hear our prayers for all who are sick or suffering, especially all afflicted with the coronavirus and all we name here before you. . . **Ronald Lundin, Serena Miller and John Clark**

### *A brief silence.*

You are our strength and our redeemer: **grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Teach us how to pray, also for ourselves:

*A longer period of silence.*

You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

Receive our thanks for all who have died in the faith, and bring us all at the end into the fullness of your life. You are our strength and our redeemer:  
**grant us your wisdom, O God.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful and gracious God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (all are invited to unmute)**

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**P: 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.**

#### **LENTEN PRAYER**

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### **THE BLESSING**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you that you may be a blessing in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.  
**Amen.**

#### **SENDING SONG:**

**SENDING SONG: "God Be With You" by Selah**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpaL\\_rjT0I8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpaL_rjT0I8)

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, share the Good News.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:** The date for submitting Requests for Funds from the Endowment has been extended to March 30, 2021. If you need an on-line form, please e-mail Aine at [aine001@centurytel.net](mailto:aine001@centurytel.net). We can also send you a form in the regular mail to complete and return. Just call Aine at 218-269-9235. Thank you.

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**AFTER THOUGHTS**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**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.

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