

~ **The Third Sunday in Lent** ~



*If multiple people are participating, one may serve as leader, reading the light faced type, the rest reading the bold faced type.*

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

**HYMN ~ LSB 981, vss 1, 5 & 7** (to be read or sung)

***“To Your Temple, Lord, I Come”***

*To Your temple, Lord, I come,  
For it is my worship home.  
This earth has no better place,  
Here I see my Savior’s face.*

*While I listen to Your Law,  
Fill my soul with humble awe  
Till Your Gospel bring to me  
Life and immortality.*

*From Your house when I return,  
May my heart within me burn,  
And at evening let me say,  
“I have walked with God today.”*

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Leader:** 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

***Exodus 20:1–17 (ESV)***  
***(The Ten Commandments)***

**20** And God spoke all these words, saying,

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

<sup>7</sup>“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.

<sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day, to 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. 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. <sup>11</sup>For 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.

<sup>12</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, 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 his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

*Some thoughts to consider from this reading...*

*This is 1 of 2 passages that list all ten of the familiar 10 commandments. The Bible does not number them, and so different groups number them in different ways. What is important is that all of the content is there!*

*As we number them, the first 3 concern your relationship with whom?*

*And the next 7 concern your relationship with whom?*

*Except for the third commandment (verse 8), all of the commandments have future tense verbs, not “command verbs.” What do you suppose the significance of that is?*

*These commandments stem from our relationship with God. What relationship with God is described in verse 2?*

## **EPISTLE READING**

### **1 Corinthians 1:18–31 (ESV)** *(The foolish wisdom of God)*

<sup>18</sup>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. <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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*Some thoughts to consider from this reading...*

*The word of the cross – includes what information? What happened? What outcome for us?*

*The world (“Gentiles”) count the message of the cross as being what (verse 22)?*

*God’s wise way of saving people by the cross which intelligent people reject as foolishness makes those intelligent people fools.*

*As far as where Christians rank among successful people of the world, where did the church in Corinth come out according to verse 26?*

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **John 2:13–25 (ESV)** *(Jesus cleanses the temple)*

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

<sup>18</sup> So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, *“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”* <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people <sup>25</sup> and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

*Some thoughts to consider from this reading...*

*Our Old Testament reading gives us something of a code of conduct for all areas of life. The third commandment (“Remember the Sabbath day...”) brings out how precious and important worship is. What were the people doing with the place of worship, the temple (verses 14-16)? How are we keeping our place of worship special?*

*Scripture is fulfilled in Jesus’ expression of zeal for the things of God – one place where we see Jesus get angry. There is such a thing as righteous anger.*

*One other thing He is passionate about, verses 19-22: what is it? What does this mean for you?*

## **THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his 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**

into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS

Thanks to God for His passion to save us from our sins;  
That He fill us with a passion to live rightly and worship Him with our lives every day;  
An end to this pandemic;  
Successful provision of the vaccine to many;  
God to accomplish His good purposes through this pandemic, leading many to trust in Him;  
Protection and strength for our healthcare workers;  
Help for the sick;  
Help for those seeking employment;  
God's wisdom and guidance for our leaders;  
God's help for the people in the south making repairs from the damaging cold;  
and any other needs of which you are aware – including names listed in the announcements,  
especially...*Pat Morrow...Edgar Lagzdins...Smith Family...Horace James...Taylor  
Benns...Jacob...Lisa Rayman...Patti Taylor...Warren Brandt...Dianna Fetter...Neely  
Family...Lou & Katie...August...Pryor Roesler... Family & Friends of Ginny Milchling †.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.** (Psalm 103:1)

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
bless and preserve us.

People: **Amen.**

