

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Third Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

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Introduction

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Built on a Rock the Church Shall Stand" #652 ELW

(Verses 1, 2 & 4)

Please Stand on the Last Verse

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

An extended silence may be kept.

Merciful God,

forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence.

We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence.

We acted when we knew better.

Silence.

We were still when we know we should have moved.

Silence.

For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

People of God, look to the ✝ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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.

Please be seated

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The ten commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

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

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and 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; 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. ¹¹For 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.

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

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You 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.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 19

The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

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

²**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴**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.**

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

⁶It 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.

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

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

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

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

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

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above 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.

¹⁴**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

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness 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, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please Stand for the Reading of the Gospel

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making 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. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “All My Hope on God Is Founded” #757 ELW
(Verses 1, 2 & 4)

Please stand if able

APOSTLE’S 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Lead us faithfully in the way of the cross. Unite us as one body in Christ. Empower us with courage to speak out against injustice and greed, demonstrating with our words and bodies the love of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. For sheep, cattle, and all domesticated livestock. For wild creatures, service animals, and pets. Provide shelter, food, and safe drinking water for every living creature. Protect the earth from disaster and harm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Teach us to honor one another as you command. Protect refugees and immigrants fleeing from their homes in search of safety and freedom.

Guide lawmakers, peacekeepers, and all who work toward reconciliation and justice.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For those who lack what they need for daily life. For people whose lives are consumed by their possessions. For those who grieve, and for all who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and for their families, sponsors, and faith mentors. For Bible study leaders and participants. For our elders in thanksgiving for the depth of wisdom and experience they offer. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with gratitude those who have gone before us (*especially*). Inspire us by their witness and example. Bring us with them into the joy of eternal life with you.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,

receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "God Are You Tired" (insert)

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Wayne & Janice Olson

Ushers: Judy Wozney, Winnie Zahradka

Lectors: Winnie Zahradka

Hospitality Hosts: Ron & Jan Aho, Ray Piispanen & Judy Wuorio

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, February 25, 2018: 9:00 am 36

Wednesday, February 28, 2018: 9:00 am 29

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

March 5 - March 11, 2018

Monday	3/5	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		1:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/6	12:00-noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	3/7	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Pot Luck
		6:30 pm	Worship
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	3/8	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		1:00 pm	Funtimers
Friday	3/9	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	3/11	9:00 am	Worship

GOD ARE YOU TIRED

Larry Olson



Oh God, are you tired of our emp - ty days, our
Oh God, are you tired of our bombs and guns, the
Oh God, are you tired of our end - less greed, our



cal - loused hearts, our bro - ken ways? How
rea - sons we give to kill some - one? How
mind - less chase of lux - u - ry? How



long till we wake up and heed your call? How
long till we stand up and stop this race? How
long till we cry out that some - thing's wrong? How



long till we see that we don't know it all?
long till we see you in ev - er - y face? May we
long till our praise is more than a song?



lose our - selves for you. May we lose our - selves for



you. For the least and the lost, may we



take up our cross and hum - bly fol - low you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY *Please* sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

PRAYS AND CARE CONCERNS: Marvin Berry would enjoy visitors or a call. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex with his phone number. If you have the time, give him a call to plan a visit, or just visit over phone.

BLESSING BOX The first Sunday of every month we pass the "Blessing Box". If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. All donations this month will go to Feed My Starving Children. Thank you! What a Blessing!

POCKET PRAYER SQUARES There are miniature versions of prayer shawls that are small enough to fit in a pocket or purse. The crafter infuses each stitch with prayer with the intention to provide love & goodwill to whoever receives it. Feel free to take one from the basket in the Narthex for anyone in need of prayer. If you can knit or crochet, there are directions by the basket & completed ones can be placed in the nurse's office.

CHOIR PRACTICE Our first practice will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, April 4th and the choir should plan on sing on Sunday, April 15th. If you like to sing please come and join the choir or the Praise Team, as we always are in of need new voices. We would love to have you come sing with us and Praise our God with beautiful music!! Our practices will continue each Wed. night at 6:00 pm with Praise Team Practicing at 7:00 p.m. The choir sings the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. The 2nd Sunday of each month is Praise Team Sunday.

CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY The dates have been reserved for pictures to be taken for our new picture directory to be ready before our 100th year anniversary in 2019. Mark your calendars now! August 15th - 18th, 2018. We will have morning, afternoon and evening sessions.

FINAL GIFT WORKSHOP First Lutheran Church in Aitkin will be sponsoring a Final Gift Workshop on Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 11:00 am-4:00 pm. The cost is \$20.00 and lunch is included. Any death is a shock to the family, whether long expected or a sudden accident. During those first few days the family must make many decisions and cope with a tidal wave of details. Our Final Gift is to leave them as much information as possible, in an organized form, so they can more easily make those decisions and plans. Registration required. See bulletin board in Narthex for more information.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY There are full size prayer shawls available in the Narthex if you know someone who is dealing with an extended illness or has recently lost a loved one and would benefit from the gift of a prayer shawl.

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION We are looking for volunteers to pick up a church member from Onamia Healthcare Center on Sunday's to attend our church service. Signup sheet will be in the secretary's office.

ISLE COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA "Come to the Cross and Remember" Friday, March 30, 2018 at 7:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church, Isle. There will be a Freewill Offering for Isle Food Shelf.