

Sunday, March 4, 2018  
Third Sunday in Lent

## 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.*

## PRELUDE

*"In Paradisum"*

Jean Boulevard

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *\*Kneel or sit as you are able*

**P** Merciful God,

**G** you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.

**We confess that we have strayed from you  
and turned aside from your way.**

**We fail in love, neglect justice,  
and ignore your truth.**

**Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.**

**Create in us clean hearts**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!**

**P** Behold, now is the acceptable time;  
now is the day of salvation.

Almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us all our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**G Amen!**

## \*GATHERING SONG

*"Built on a Rock"*

ELW 652

**Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling—  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.**

**Surely, in temples made with hands  
God the Most High is not dwelling—**

high in the heav'ns his temple stands,  
all earthly temples excelling.  
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above  
deigns to abide with us in love,  
making our bodies his temple.

Christ builds a house of living stones:  
we are his own habitation;  
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,  
granting us life and salvation.  
Where two or three will seek his face,  
he in their midst will show his grace,  
blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame,  
Jesus the children is blessing;  
hither we come to praise his name,  
faith in our Savior confessing.  
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,  
making with us his covenant,  
granting his children the kingdom.

Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
many may come to hear your Word,  
who here this promise is bringing:  
"I know my own, my own know me;  
you, not the world, my face shall see;  
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

**\*GREETING**

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

**C** **And also with you.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*"Kyrie"*

**ELW 157**

**P** In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,  
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

☞ For your people here who have come to give you praise,  
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

☞ **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

☞ Help, save, and defend us, O God.

☞ **Amen.**

#### \*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!**

**ANTHEM**

*"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"*

David Cherwien

Chancel Choir

#### 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.*

<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 his 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.

### **Reflection**

*What are we to make of verse 1, "Then God spoke all these words." How are these words in this text like the words used in Genesis 1, and John 1? How are they different? In the Jewish numbering of the Ten Commandments, the first commandment is "I am the Lord your God." and the second commandment is, "You shall have no other gods before me." If you look up in the Small Catechism the Lutheran list (which is the same as the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox), the first commandment is "You shall have no other gods." (You can find the Small Catechism on page 1160 in the hymnal.) What difference do you think this makes? What does "I am the Lord your God" mean to us as Christians? What do you notice about the commandments in verses 3-5 (we're using the Lutheran numbering), verse 7, verses 13, 14, 15, 16, 17a, 17b, as opposed to verse 8 and verse 12? (So that this isn't a guess what I'm thinking question, it has to do with prohibitions of things we should not do, and positive instructions about what we should do? Is it easier to avoid doing something you've been prohibited from doing, or to do something that is positive? If you look at Luther's explanation of the meaning of the commandments, notice that Luther explains all of the commandments positively—he tells us what we should do to keep the commandments, rather than how to avoid breaking the commandments. What do these commandments say to you about how you live? Why do you think we might read this text in Lent? How does this text affect your Lenten journey?*

### **PSALM 19**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glo- | ry 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 re- | vives 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 re- | joice 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 en- | dures 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 ser- | vant 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.**

### **Reflection**

*This is a psalm praising God's glory in Creation and in the Law. What does the psalmist say we can learn from creation? (verses 1-4) When have you experienced that the creation was praising God? How does that help and encourage your praise of God? What does the psalmist say about the law of God? Find all the adjectives and phrases that describe the law in verses 7-10. How do you experience the goodness of the law of God? What does the law do, or keep us from doing? (verses 11-12) How does the psalmist describe those who do not keep the law? (verse 13) This psalm also teaches us how to pray. (verse 14) How does this psalm affect your Lenten journey?*

### **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.*

<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.

### **Reflection**

*What is the message of the cross? (verse 18) What is the “wisdom of the wise”? Notes in the Lutheran Bible suggest that it is “everything happens for a reason, and everything is just as it should be,” which preserves the social order—the rich are rich because they should be, and the poor are poor because they should be. How does the message of the cross upset that “wisdom”? (verse 21) What is the cross to those who do not believe? (verses 22-23) What is the cross to those who believe? (verse 24) How do you make sense of verse 25 (and in fact, this whole text)? How is God's “foolishness” wise, and “weakness” strong? How does this text guide your Lenten journey?*

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL**

**John 2:13-22**

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

<sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**Reflection**

*What does Jesus teach his disciples? (verse 31) How do his disciples (Peter is the representative here) receive this teaching? (verse 32) What does Jesus call Peter? (verse 33) Satan is about the worst name (although not the most vulgar) anyone could call a person of faith. What does Jesus accuse Peter of doing? I am reminded by Emily Heath, who wrote a meditation on this text for The Christian Century, that another name for Satan is "the adversary," that is, anything or anyone that stands in the way of our doing what God is calling us to do—"doubt, fear, pride, addiction, hatred, anger, greed, insecurity.... In what ways do you experience the presence of the adversary in your life of faith? What does Jesus have to say about following him? (verse 33) What do you fear will cause you to lose your life? What does Jesus say about trying to save ourselves? (verses 35-37) When we want to save ourselves, we want the world to love us for our power, riches, intelligence, cleverness.... There's a hymn that I really love, "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me." What will happen to our lives if Jesus walks with us? What will happen to us if we walk with Jesus?*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

**"Cleaning House"**

Rev. Roger Lenander

**SONG OF THE DAY**

*"The River"*

***Refrain***

Like a tide it is rising up deep inside  
A current that moves and makes you come alive  
Living water that brings the dead to life  
Oh oh  
We're goin' down to the river  
Down to the river  
Down to the river to pray  
Let's get washed by the water  
Washed by the water  
And rise up in amazing grace  
Let's go down down down to the river  
You will leave changed  
Let's go down down down to the river  
Never the same

I know a place where we can go  
To lay the troubles down eating your soul  
I know a place where mercy flows  
Take the stains make you whiter than snow *Refrain*

I've seen it move in my own life  
Took me from dusty roads into paradise  
All of my dirt all of my shame  
Drowned in the streams that have made me born again *Refrain*

**\*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!

**\*PRAYER SONG**

*"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"*

Hear our pray'r, O Lord;  
hear our pray'r, O Lord;  
Incline Thine ear to us  
and grant us Thy peace.

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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 especially the friends and family of Bill Guenther, and for all who are ill *especially* Roxanna, Mary Anna, Kay, and Linda and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). 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.**

We remember with gratitude those who have gone before us *especially Bill Guenther*. 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!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**C** **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

***"How Great Thou Art"*** vv. 1 & 3

**ELW 856**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

***Refrain***

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

***"More Precious Than Silver"***

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

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** *Merciful God,*

**C** **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!**

## \*DIALOGUE

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*PREFACE

**P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.*

*You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, Holy,  
Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full,  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** *In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:*

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**C** **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!**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** *Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.*

**\*BLESSING**

**P** *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and  
keep you in his grace.*

**C** **Amen!**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** *Compassionate God,*

**C** **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!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** *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  $\neq$  peace.

**Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG**

***"Let It Be Said of Us"***

***Refrain***

Let the cross be our glory  
And the Lord be our song  
By mercy made holy  
By the Spirit made strong  
Let the cross be our glory  
And the Lord be our song  
'Til the likeness of Jesus  
Be through us made known  
Let the cross be our glory  
And the Lord be our song

Let it be said of us  
That the Lord was our passion  
That with gladness we bore  
Ev'ry cross we were given  
That we fought the good fight  
That we finished the course  
Knowing within us  
The pow'r of the risen Lord *Refrain*

Let it be said of us  
We were marked by forgiveness  
We were known by our love  
And delighted in meekness  
We were ruled by His peace  
Heeding unity's call  
Joined as one body  
That Christ would be seen by all *Refrain*