

March 3, 2024

(B)

Third Sunday in Lent

FIRST READING. Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

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

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

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.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. 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. 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.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

SECOND READING. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For 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. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

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? 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. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL. John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. 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. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 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.

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.



**Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 3, 2024**

"In response to God's love, St. Matthew's is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone."

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord's Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

If you missed last week's sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
+ one God, who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus. Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,
**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offering Prayer (read in unison) From Sundays & Seasons, © 2023 Augsburg Fortress

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

Psalm 19 – Tune 347 *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be

acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Blest are those--most happy they-- | Who the Word of God obey.

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. No speech or words are used, yet their message reaches all the earth and it travels around the world.

Lord, you gave your words that we | Might your glad salvation see.

Each day the sun which God made comes out like a happy bridegroom, like an athlete eager to run a race. Like the sun, each day God's Word goes forth, shining warm and brilliant.

Lord, to whom else could we go? | You have words of life, we know.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The testimonies of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The ordinances of the Lord are righteous altogether.

Blest are those--most happy they-- | Who the Word of God obey.

They are more desirable than the finest gold, sweeter than the purest honey. By them is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Lord, you gave your words that we | Might your glad salvation see.

But who can detect their errors? Cleanse me from my secret faults. Above all, keep your servant from willful sins; let them not get dominion over me.

Lord, to whom else could we go? | You have words of life, we know.

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

- Mar 6 6:30 p.m. – ZOOM Midweek Lent Gathering; March 13, 20
Email Pastor Bart for a ZOOM invitation: bartsterc@gmail.com
- Mar 9 1:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting
- Mar 10 Daylight Savings Time begins, turn clocks ahead 1 hour
- Mar 11 1:30 p.m. – World Day of Prayer service at St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church on 29 Bald St in Welland. If you could not
attend World Day of Prayer in Port Colborne, there is a service in
Welland. Please RSVP Debbie: 905-734-4831 if you plan to attend.
- Mar 24 11:00 a.m. – Sunday of the Passion; Palm Sunday
- Mar 28 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday worship at St. Matthew's
- Mar 29 10:00 a.m. – Good Friday worship at First Lutheran; 688 Elm Street
in Port Colborne. Everyone is invited to attend!

GATHERING

Confession and Forgivenessprinted
Kyrie, from Service of the Word
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Prayer of the Day
Hymn.....69
Deepest Night

WORD

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19.....printed in bulletin
Second Reading1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Gospel Acclamation, Setting 1
“Let your steadfast love...”Page 103
“Glory to you, O Lord.”
GospelJohn 2:13-22
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day703 O God, Why
Are You Silent

Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response“Your mercy is great.”
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayerprinted
Great Thanksgiving (spoken)Page 107
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord's Prayer, sungPage 305
Communion
“Lamb of God”, Setting 1Page 112
Communion Hymns637, 856
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing
Sending Song 803 When I Survey the
Wondrous Cross

Dismissal: Go in peace. Share your bread.

Response: Thanks be to God.