

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 3, 2024 WORD AND PRAYER

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 613 LOCUST STREET JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15901

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WORD AND PRAYER

THE PRELUDE ~

Stand.

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

THE PRAYER FOR PURITY

- P Let us pray.
- P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,
- C and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- P The Lord God, Father and Creator spoke all these words saying:
- a 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.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

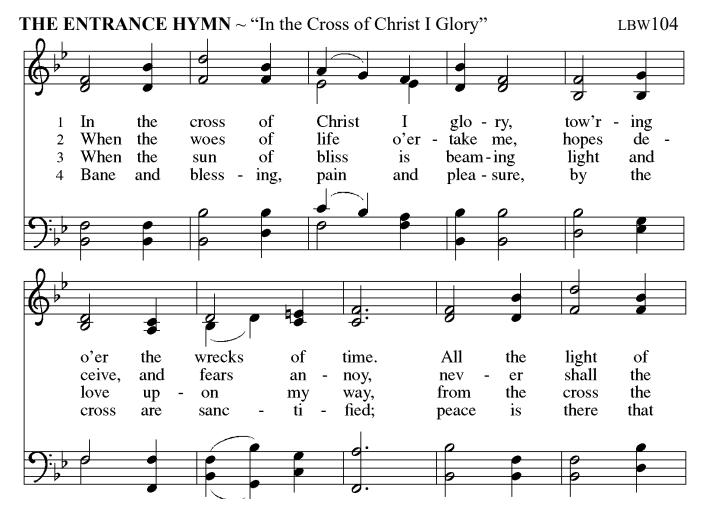
P Let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- I confess to Almighty God, to the Apostles and saints in heaven and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed; by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. I ask almighty God, the Apostles and saints in heaven and you my brothers and sisters to forgive me and help me amend my life.
- P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As one called and ordained in the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you who do truly repent and believe in him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- P By the same authority, I declare to those who do not repent and believe, that so long as they continue knowingly, arrogantly and willfully in their sins, God has not forgiven them, and will assuredly bring judgment upon them, if they do not turn from their evil ways and come to true repentance and faith in Christ.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.





THE 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.

THE KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

C Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

P 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.

C Amen.

Sit.

THE FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

L A reading from Exodus.

God 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.

^{n 5}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, 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,* and the firmament | shows his handiwork.

²One 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,

4their sound has gone out in- | to all lands,* and their message to the ends | of the world.

⁵In the deep has he set a pavilion | for the sun;* it 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 law of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;* the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the innocent.

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

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;* the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰More 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 ser- | vant enlightened,* and in keeping them there is | great reward.

12Who can tell how often | he offends?*

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.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,*

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit,* as it was in the beginning, is now and will be fore- | ver. Amen.

THE SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:18-25

L A reading from First Corinthians.

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. 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C We proclaim Christ | crucified,* the power of God and the wis- | dom of God. (I Corinthians 1:23, 24)

THE GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the second chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

The 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.

- P The Gospel of the Lord!
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE HOMILY

Stand.





THE APOSTLES CREED

A Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

a I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce waste. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you *(especially)*. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P In the presence of Christ himself, let us pray as he has taught us:
- 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.

THE BENEDICTION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Bless we the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.
- P As we die and rise with Christ in Baptism, may we also live and serve like Christ. Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
- C Amen.



THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE ~

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