

***“People of Christ
Making a
Difference”***

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

8:30 & 11:00AM

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. The nursery is located at the end of the hall on the right side.

Children's bags can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

Restroom facilities are located down the hall on the left side.

First Aid, Emergency Equipment, and a wheelchair are located down the hall on the right by the stairwell.

If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Agape Sunday School classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 18 month olds through adults.

Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex.

Ushers are also available to assist you.

If you are a visitor feel free to sign-in using the QR code. Here's how it works: Point your camera at the image, tap the link that appears on your screen, and share whatever information you desire. Thank you! Hope to see you again soon!



GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

(8:30)	<i>"Meditation"</i>	William H. Harris
(11:00)	<i>"What Wondrous Love is This"</i> (Handbell Choir)	Douglas E. Wagner
	(We Stand)	

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,

We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil your creation; we cause hurt; we give in to fear. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

ELW 705

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

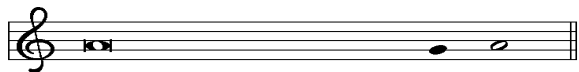
for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

GREETING

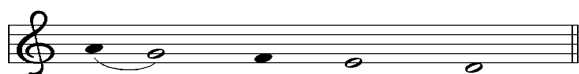
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

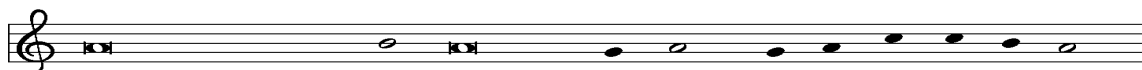
KYRIE



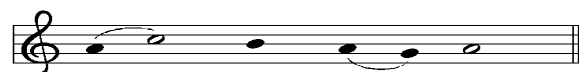
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



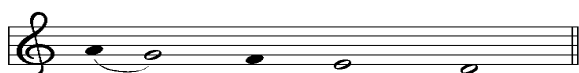
Lord, have mer - cy.



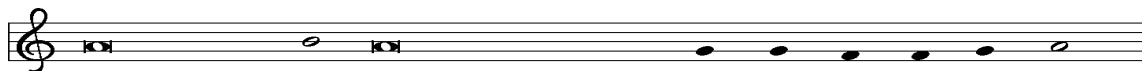
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

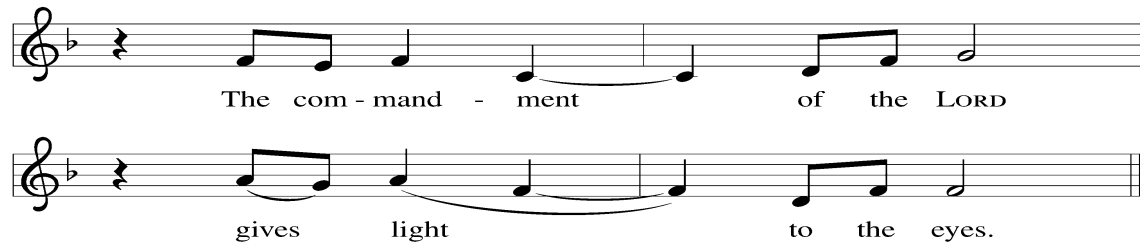
¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

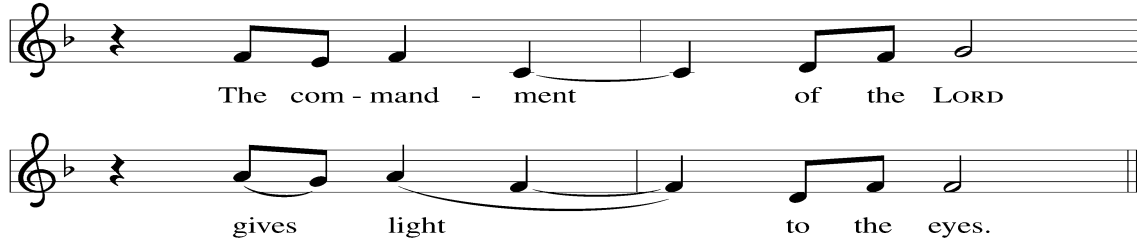
Psalm 19



¹The heavens declare the glo-¹ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its¹ maker's handiwork.
²**One day tells its tale¹ to another,
and one night imparts knowledge¹ to another.**
³Although they have no¹ words or language,
and their voices¹ are not heard,
⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends¹ of the world,
where God has pitched a tent¹ for the sun.**
⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out¹ of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to¹ run its course.
⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of¹ it
again;
nothing is hidden from its¹ burning heat. R**

PSALMODY

Psalm 19 (Cont.)



⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-^lvives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to^l the simple.

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

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en-^ldures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous^l altogether.

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

¹¹By them also is your ser-^lvant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is^l great reward.

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

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion^l over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a^l great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable^l in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and^l my redeemer. R**

SECOND READING

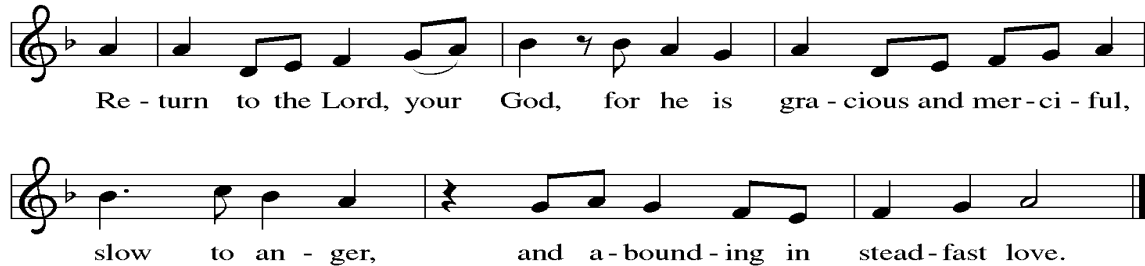
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

(We Sit)

(11:00) Anthem

"Grant, O God, Your Blessing"
(Treble Choir)

Michael Bedford

Grant, O God, your blessing on us as we pray.
Grant, O God, your blessing on us all this day.
Just as Jesus prayed to you in the wilderness,
Let us pray, every day. Hear, O Lord, and bless.

Grant, O God, your blessing on us as we pray.
Grant, O God, your blessing on us all this day.
For the things that we do wrong please, O God, forgive.
Help us all, great and small, live as Jesus lived. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Jason

SERMON

Pastor Jason

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Built on a Rock"

ELW 652

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is

fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

- 5 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."

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(We Sit)

OFFERING

God calls us to be generous stewards for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online (sslc.org or use the QR Code) or through the Givelify app. If you would like more details on direct deposit giving please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.



Anthem

(8:30)

"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"
(Adult Choir)

Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Create in me a clean heart, O God!

(11:00)

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Rebecca Te Velde

(We Stand)

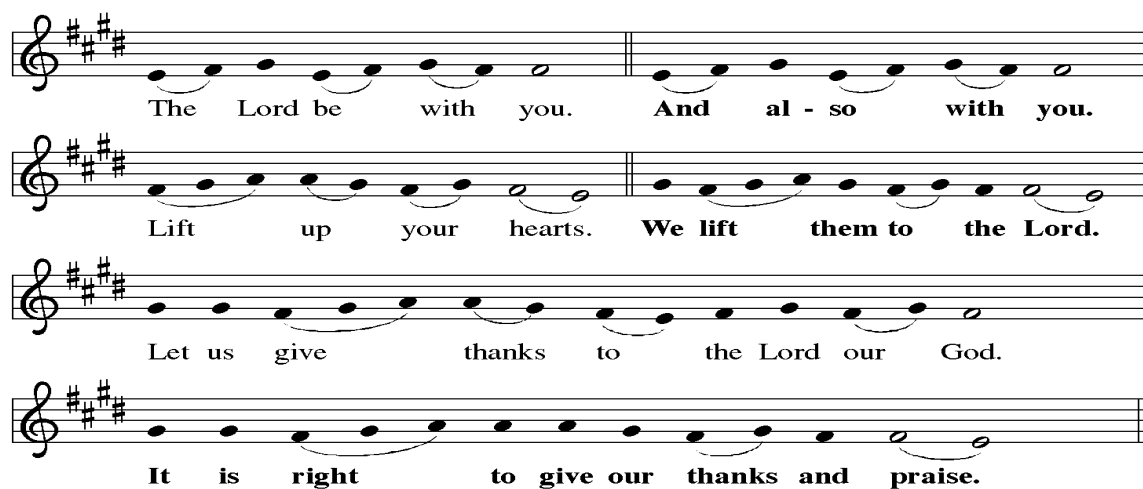
OFFERTORY SONG

ELW 188



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

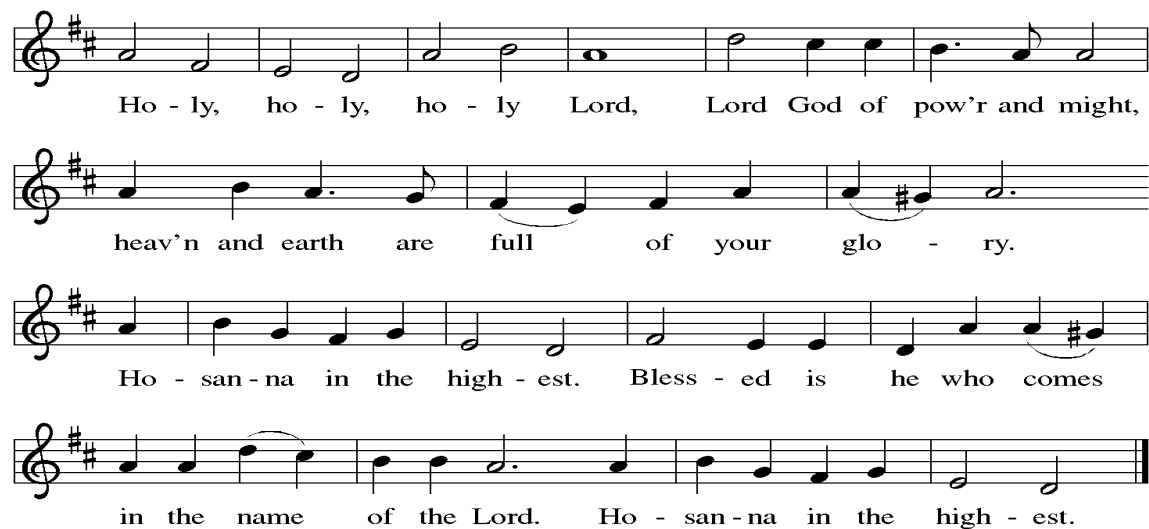
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

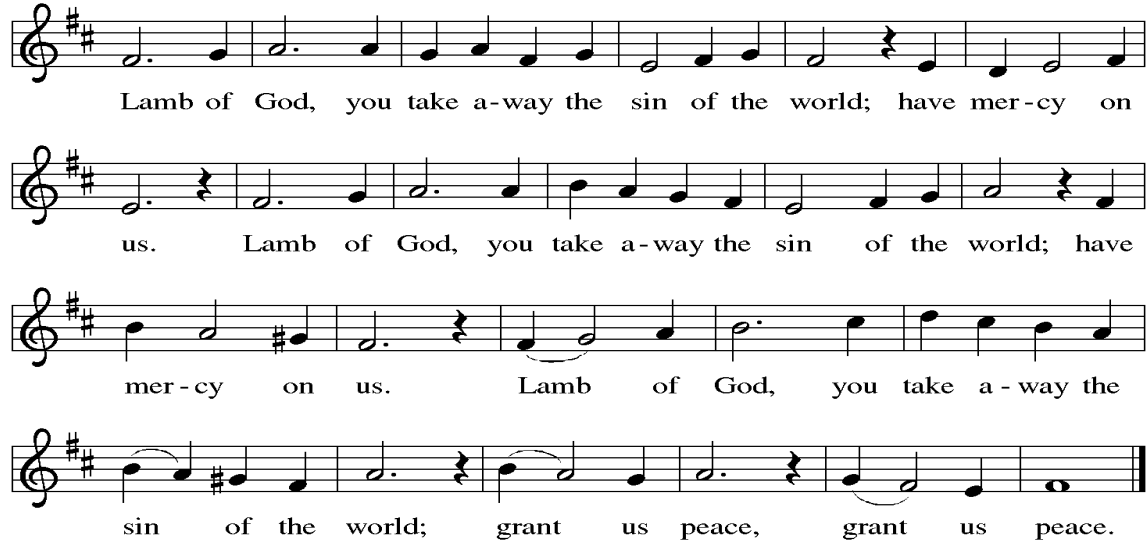
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

THE AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christ welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the altar rail. Communion will be brought to the front rows for those who wish to remain seated. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music

"Serenade"

Franz Schubert

*The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the LBW (Green) Hymnal in your pew rack.*

Communion Hymn

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

LBW 104

(We Stand)

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

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

Amen.

BENEDICTION

God the Father, who fills the creation with abundance, + Christ the Son, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

ELW 803

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE***"The God of Abraham Praise"*

Rebecca Te Velde

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

Clearing a Path to Worship

In the gospel for today, Jesus discovers that the temple has been turned from a place of worship into a marketplace. The predominance of the selling of animals and the exchanging of money for profit overshadow what is supposed to be the main activity in the temple, worshipping God. The vendors and moneychangers seem to be more interested in serving their own interests and greedily filling their purses with coins than in serving God and God's people. Instead of helping people worship God, they are getting in the way. The commercialization of worship means that those who cannot afford the costs are unable to offer their worship to God, and money becomes a god more valued than the God to whom the temple was dedicated.

Jesus finds this situation unacceptable. The first commandment clearly states, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exod. 20:3). Jesus will not allow anything, especially money, to be given more devotion than God. In addition, Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was to take away the barriers between humans and God, so that all people might be reconciled to God through him.

John's gospel is unique among the four gospels in that it places the story of Jesus clearing the temple at the beginning, rather than the end, of Jesus' ministry. This placement shows how John's gospel emphasizes that Jesus has come to replace the temple. No longer will God's presence be confined to a place, the temple, but instead, God's presence is now embodied in the person of Jesus. Jesus welcomes all to him, and erects no barriers or limits on who can be his follower.

The Readings on This Day

During Lent, the church renews its members in the meaning of baptism. Today's readings highlight the difference between first-century Judaism and the Christian gospel: Christ is a replacement for the Jewish religious rituals. Yet many contemporary Christians maintain with Paul that God's promises to the Jewish people continue: apparently God has more than one way of mercy.

John 2:13-22

This gospel is a primary example of John's use of narrative to proclaim Christology. Christ is the temple. Coming to church in Lent is coming to Christ, whose body is raised from death and who lives now in the community of believers. Our Passover is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:1-17

The Decalogue, which arose in a period of Israelite history prior to the building of the temple, is appointed for this Sunday to highlight both the similarities and the differences between the evolving biblical Judaism and the community of Christian believers. The Commandments understand all human life as conducted before God. In the New Testament itself (for example Matthew 5) we encounter the earliest of continuing Christian appropriation and reinterpretation of the Ten Commandments. Historically, attention to the Commandments has been part of catechesis.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

This reading helps connect the Ten Commandments with Christ as the replacement of the temple: Paul contrasts the faith of the baptized with both Greek learning and Jewish signs. In Lent we affirm the gospel with its offer of the weakness of the crucified Christ.

THE ALTAR GREENERY is given to the glory of God by the Cancian Family.

SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: (8:30) Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Pat Bowen, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl,
Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, and Chad Geary;
(11:00) Alon Cox, Matt Martin, Heyward Addy, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth,
and Doug Harper

Cantor: Shawn Lackey

Readers: (8:30) David Able; (11:00) Cathy Mathias

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Lucy and Paul Austin; (11:00) Jamie Early and Cathy Mathias

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Weston Hill [C] Noah Oxley;
(11:00) [A] Thomas Brunson [C] Elizabeth Kolb

The Church Staff

Crisis Care Line: 808-6471

Website: www.sslc.org

The Rev. Jason T. Antley

The Rev. Ralph G. Hill

Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life

Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator

Ms. Susan Wilson, Director of Music/Organist

Mrs. Julie Tworzyanski, Preschool Director

Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

Sunday School Information:

Locations for Children's Classes

Locations for Adult Classes

Nursery – Room #105	Saints & Sinners with Pastor Jason Room #203 (Old Agape Classroom)
2, 3, 4 year olds & 5K – Room #103	
1st—2nd Grade – Room # 206	Agape Adult Class Men's Classroom (Downstairs)
3rd—5th Grade – Room # 216	
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade – Room #212	Young Adult Class with Pastor Ralph Chapel (Upstairs New Building)
9th – 12th Grade – Room #217	

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.