

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing

DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
March 7, 2021
The Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 7, 2021

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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 commandments 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. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

**March 7: Perpetua and Felicity and companions,
martyrs at Carthage, died 202**

Vibia Perpetua was a noblewoman, and Felicity her slave, who were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Agnus Dei
Frank Martin (1890-1974)

Frank Martin was a Swiss composer. His works represent a unique voice in music, combining classicism, impressionism, and 20th century techniques. His music is often inspired by his Christian spirituality. His Agnus Dei for organ is not composed on a pre-existing tune, but instead serves as a meditation on the text, as taken from the Latin Mass.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.
Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.
Amen.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

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.

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.

A reading from Exodus.

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.

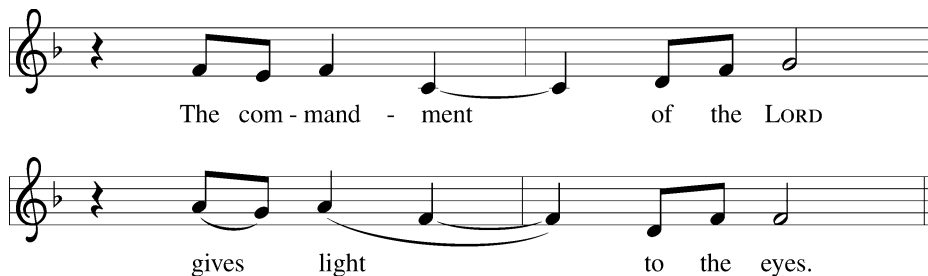
¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 19

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry 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.

⁶**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. REFRAIN**

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

⁸**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.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures 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. REFRAIN**

¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant 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. REFRAIN

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:13-25

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.

A reading from First Corinthians.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #177

The assembly sings the acclamation.



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

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

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.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

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.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Springer



1 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and glo - ri - ous,
 2 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and pow - er - ful,
 3 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and beau - ti - ful,
 4 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and on - ly wise,
 5 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and liv - ing one,



glo - ry most sub - lime, you come as one a - mong us
 pow - er with - out peer, you bend to us in weak - ness;
 beau - ty un - sur - passed, you are de - spised, re - ject - ed;
 wis - dom of great price, you choose the way of fol - ly;
 life that nev - er ends, you show your love by dy - ing,



in - to hu - man time, and we be - hold your glo - ry.
 emp - tied, you draw near, and we be - hold your pow - er.
 scorned, you hold us fast, and we be - hold your beau - ty.
 God the cru - ci - fied, and we be - hold your wis - dom.
 dy - ing for your friends, and we be - hold you liv - ing.

Text: Susan R. Briebl, b. 1952

Music: NELSON, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, for the world and for all those in need.

We pray for the church –

O Gd, breath your spirit on the church to be a living body with the mind of Xp that we learn wisdom from foolishness, that the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart be acceptable to you and so give faithful voice and offer fitting place for your redeeming ways.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd, we have learned “knowledge puffs up but love builds up.” May we look to the cross of Xp not simply as the right thing to know, but as a way of life, taken on, put on, and realized as the true wisdom and power of your love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world –

O Gd, beyond words, the heavens declare your glory. Awake our appreciation for the working together of all life. May we learn to care for the wellbeing of one another. May we learn to dismantle oppressive systems. May we learn how to respond to the needs of those who lack privilege, and how to work to relieve the burdens of injustice. We do pray, show us your ways and you, O Gd, have not left us uninformed. Ancient words hammered onto stone tablets have laid out the pattern for how life together can be well joined. Teach us, O Gd, and persons of leadership, to trust your paths and acknowledge what truly is written in our hearts.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need.

O Gd in this time when many feel exposed to dangers and hard times, when living turns lonely and is shadowed by struggles and disease, grant to those beset by the weight of these days the renewing word of your redeeming presence. And teach us, we pray, to meet the needs of others with generous spirit and compassionate action.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And finally O Gd,

Hear our prayer for those we know and love. Be near them, touch them, teach them, open their lives to sense they are near something good, near your abiding presence in all that we now know and all that is yet to be known.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

MEDITATION

Members of the Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

Show Me Your Ways, O Lord
Carl Schalk (1929-2021)

This winter we lost a towering figure in the Lutheran music world in Carl Schalk. A member of the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Music, he played a key role in the development of Lutheran Book of Worship (1978), the "Green Book." For nearly 40 years, he taught at Concordia University Chicago, where he trained scores of church musicians. He is best known, however, for his hymn tunes and anthems, which demonstrate his special gift of melody. Our Evangelical Worship has nine of Schalk's hymn tunes, and the Chancel Choir has presented many of his anthems over the years. Today's anthem written after the strict manner of a Renaissance motet asks God to keep us in the narrow way of his teachings and laws. Next week, the choir will present a contrasting, more lyrical style employed by the versatile composer.

Show me your ways, O Lord,
teach me your paths.
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
in you I trust, O my God.
Do not let me be put to shame.
Psalm 25:1-2a,4

COMMISSION

Pastor Stephen Springer

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG*Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

ELW #772



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir (From deep affliction I cry out to you)

BWV 686, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Luther used his translation of Aus tiefer Not to help explain his catechism on the sacrament of Confession. Bach's Clavierübung III, often referred to as the "German Organ Mass", is a collection of chorale preludes based on the different sections of the Lutheran Mass, and on Luther's catechism. Bach wrote two settings of Aus tiefer Not for the collection, one to symbolize Luther's large catechism, and one for Luther's small catechism. This setting, which is a musical meditation on the large catechism, is one of Bach's greatest achievements in the art of counterpoint, a musical style which features multiple melodic lines at the same time. Bach writes in an older style called Stile Antico, and presents the chorale in a 5-part fugue with an additional Cantus Firmus in the pedal. There are two voices in the pedal throughout the piece, keeping Kevin's feet quite busy, and Bach masterfully imbues the piece with the Phrygian flavor of the original chorale.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

John Hoelter, Assisting Minister

Chris Alexander, Lector

Eric Holtan, Cantor and Director of Choirs

Kevin Seal, Organ