

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 am Services

## Third Sunday in Lent

**Introduction to the Day:** 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.

## Gathering

Prelude

*Prelude in A-flat* – César Cui [1835-1918]

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Ann Williams

*Please stand as you are able.*

Call to Worship

Lord God, you have called us. You loved us before we could love you. You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, thanking you.

**As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, whose death and resurrection give us hope.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

**try me and know my thoughts.**

See if there is any wicked way in me,

**and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

1. O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have  
 2. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e -

mer - cy; O Lord, have mercy, have mer - cy, Lord.  
 -lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, e - lei - son.

Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin; from  
 earth - born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.

*Fine.*

Text: Trad. Kyrie & Synesius of Cyrene. Music: Paraguay Tune. Setting by Hal Hopson & John Paradowski. Copyright: © 2000 Hope Publishing. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Gracious God,

**In times of temptation, we forget what you have done for us. You give us everything we need, yet we often remain unsatisfied. You show us the way we are to follow, yet we often continue the path of self-indulgence and self-centeredness. Forgive us, we pray. We ask for your direction, your patience, your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, who, despite his temptations, was faithful to your saving Word.**

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

Gathering Song

**#327 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow**

Greeting

We gather as we live in the name of the God, our Creator; the Son, our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

### First Reading

Genesis 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.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm Reading

Psalm 19

*The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)*

Let us read responsively from Psalm 19.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

**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.**

It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**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.**

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

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

By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

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

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.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

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.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Gospel Acclamation

**p 189, Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us**

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, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar

*Please stand as you are able.*

Hymn of the Day

**#803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

*(Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)*

## Profession of Faith

## The 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.**

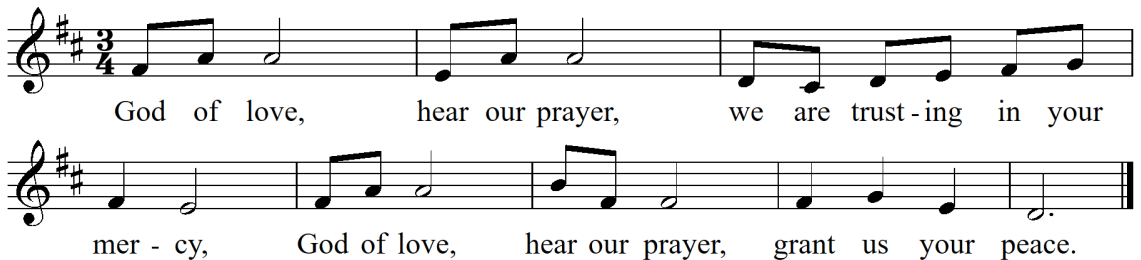
*Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.*

## Prayers of Intercession

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.

## Call to Prayer

## God of Love, Hear Our Prayer



God of love, hear our prayer, we are trust-ing in your  
mer-cy, God of love, hear our prayer, grant us your peace.

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...Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

Meal

Offering

*Antiphon* by Ernest Chausson [1855-1899]*Please stand as you are able.*

Offertory Response

**When Grains of Wheat Fall**

1. When grains of wheat fall in the ground, New life with -  
 2. With Christ we die; with Christ we live; To Christ our  
 in their death is found. When grapes are crushed, there  
 ran - somed lives we give. With grate - ful hearts, our  
 flows new wine. So from Christ's death flow gifts di - vine.  
 gifts in hand, Be - fore the cross of Christ we stand.

Tune: Erhalt Uns, Herr LM. Music: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543. Text: Arden Mead. Copyright: © 1999 Creative Communications. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## Offertory Prayer

We pay you homage, O King. Accept our gifts, not as sacrifice or moneylenders' coin but as tokens of our love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Words of Institution

## The Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come, your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**We prepare our hearts to receive this meal.**

*Please be seated.*

## Call to Communion

**#336 Lamb of God/Your Only Son**

## Communion Hymn

**#335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his love and grace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer After Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you do not desire sacrifice. You, yourself, have filled that role. Help us to offer what you do desire, love for God and neighbor. These are the gifts fit for our King.

**Lead us, O Christ. We shoulder our crosses. We follow. You are the Lord forevermore. Amen.**

## *Sending*

### Blessing

The blessing of God's eternal love, the courage to follow the way of the cross, and the guidance of the Spirit in the desert places of our world, be among us. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

**#325 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**

## Dismissal

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Alla Marcia* – Henry Coleman [1888-1965]

**FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17**

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.

**Psalm 19****SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

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.

**GOSPEL: John 2:13-22**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>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.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

Cover: *Christ Expelling the Money-Changers from the Temple* by Nicolas Colombel (French, 1644-1717). Oil on canvas. Courtesy of the Saint Louis Art Museum.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
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