



“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

+ *John 2:19*

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 7, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Coming into the third week of Lent, our Lord is drawing ever closer to His Passion—His holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death—whereby our Lord forever broke the power of Satan to accuse the saints who wash their robes in the blood shed for us all. Thus, we fix our eyes on Jesus (*Gradual*).

We rely upon the forgiveness He earned for us because, on our own, we cannot obey the Law of God—no matter how hard we might try, the exacting perfection that it demands leaves us condemned. But God in His wisdom (*Epistle*) chose to save us and all who boast not in our own works but in the works of the Lord.

The *Gospel* shows how far from the purity of the Law in the precepts of God the people of Israel had fallen. Jesus was so jealous for God’s Law that He cleansed the temple before cleansing us of our sin by giving the temple of His body.

Christ did overcome in three days, just as He said, for the temple of His body is restored in His resurrection. And this is His guarantees of life for all who believe on His name.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699



“Jesus Casting Out the Money Changers at the Temple”
by Carl Bloch (1834-1890), Public Domain

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalm 32:5*

Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all. *Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 69:14–16; antiphon: v. 9

The pastor and congregation speak responsively. The antiphon is spoken by the pastor before and after the psalm.

(Antiphon) For zeal for Your house has consumed Me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on Me.

¹⁴ Deliver Me from sinking in the mire;
let Me be delivered from My enemies and from the deep waters.

¹⁵ **Let not the flood sweep over Me, or the deep swallow Me up,
or the pit close its mouth over Me.**

¹⁶ Answer Me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good;
according to Your abundant mercy, turn to Me.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Lent.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 20:1–17

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, chapter 20.

¹And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to 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. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

The pastor and congregation speak responsively by half-verse.

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith,

Who for the joy that was set before Him endure the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, chapter one.

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the LORD.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE

John 2:19

Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:13–22

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple He found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And He poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And He told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make My Father’s house a house of trade.” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house will consume Me.”

¹⁸So the Jews said to Him, “What sign do You show us for doing these things?”

¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

²⁰The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

²¹But He was speaking about the temple of His body. ²²When therefore 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

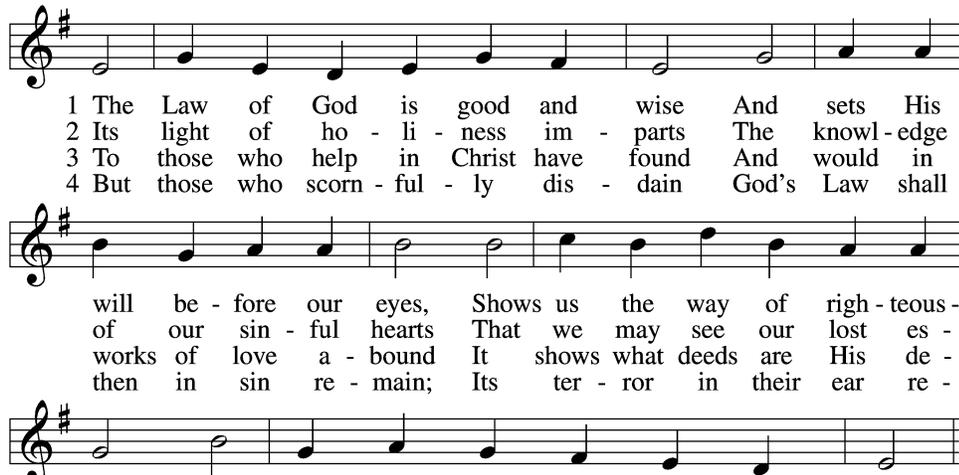
NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: The Law of God Is Good and Wise

LSB 579



1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His
2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge
3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in
4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's Law shall
will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -
of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -
works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -
then in sin re - main; Its ter - ror in their ear re -
ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.
tate And turn from sin be - fore too late.
light And should be done as good and right.
sounds And keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

5 The Law is good; but since the fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no pow'r to justify.

6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the sermon, the pastor may say:

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
C Amen.

Philippians 4:7

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12

- C** 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. Amen.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** That our jealous God would save the third and fourth generations who will come after us from His punishment by filling us with His Son's zeal for His house in these Lenten days; and that we may cast out every idol from our hearts and love only Him and His commandments, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** That the Lord our God who brought us out of slavery to sin through Christ Jesus would bless all those whom He sends to preach Christ crucified, that we may ever know and live in the truth of His power in Christ's cross, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** That our heavenly Father would preserve and bless all Christian households; that husbands and wives live in service and love to each other; that fathers and mothers diligently bring up their children in the fear of the LORD; and that children honor their parents and be equipped for service to neighbor, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** That the Lord of the perfect Law would bless Joseph, our President, Gavin, our Governor, Cheryl, our Mayor, and all those who watch over and govern us in His stead; that He would make them wise in His ways and cause His justice to be upheld among us; and that He would help us serve and obey them in accord with His will, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** That God, whose steadfast love in Christ is good, turn in His abundant mercy toward all who suffer in our midst, that the flood may not sweep over them nor the pit close its mouth on them; and that He deliver them from sinking into the mire and deep waters, granting them healing, comfort, and peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** That the Lord, who blesses this day and makes it holy with His Word and the gifts of His altar, grant us to come before Him in humble repentance to eat His Son's true body and most precious blood, that we may not boast in ourselves in His presence but in Christ alone, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** That our God, whose Son raised up the temple of His body three days after it was destroyed by wicked men, would on the Last Day grant us and all the saints who now rest in His presence to share in the glory of His Son's resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and **✠** give you peace.

C **Amen.**

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. For all viewing from home, please come for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Ready for part one of my two-part gripe? Ready or not, here it comes.

Next Sunday is . . . (cue the ominous music) . . . Daylight Savings Time!

Some of you might have picked up on the fact that I'm a night person so Daylight Savings Time has always KILLED ME! Who wants the morning to come any earlier than it already does?! That's just crazy! LOL

Well, as God has a sense of humor, He blessed Holly and I with an extreme morning person in our son, Leo (and it seems like Sam has the same love of mornings as his brother but at least Sam can't get out of the crib . . . yet). Sometimes, I think Leo is solar-powered because just the tiniest ray of light gets his engine revving! As a result, Leo has big blackout covers for his windows AND blackout curtains AND we have pillows that rest on the ventilation gate at the bottom of his bedroom door to keep any stray light from sneaking into his room.

Of course, now my dear Leo is getting up BEFORE the sun (and has been since before Christmas when the excitement of his Advent Calendar was driving him out of bed as soon as possible). His little internal clock has been getting him up between 5:30 and 6:30am (and I know it isn't because he looks at his clock because I adjusted that already . . . yes, deceiving my son to try to get him to sleep a bit more).



I guess it isn't all bad news (though changing time always makes my kids grumpy). At least when Leo gets up, it'll be 7:00am instead of 6:00am (still too early for this night owl!).

I write some of this in jest . . . but, to be honest, I'm a pretty grumpy bear at 7:00am, so . . .

That being said, be sure to set your clocks ahead next Saturday night or you might be a wee bit late to church next week! Of course, if you forget and oversleep, at least you can watch it on Facebook!

On a more serious note, we are coming to the halfway mark of our Lenten journey. If you haven't been participating in our Tuesday "Zoom" Bible Study or attending/watching our Midweek Lenten services, it isn't too late to start! The same thing goes for our Sunday Services—if you've fallen out of the habit of attending/watching church over the course of this pandemic then please come back (in-person or online).

So please join me for our Lenten Bible Study meeting on "Zoom" every Tuesday at Noon. This week we'll be going through Matthew 26:57-68 (Jesus before Caiaphas and the Council).

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either "669-900-9128" or "346-248-7799" and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is "12345"

And then join me Wednesday for our Midweek Prayer Service at 7:00pm, both streaming on Facebook and in-person. This Wednesday, March 10, we'll be at Grace; I will be the liturgist and Rev. Beyer (Saint Paul's) will deliver the homily. Regardless of location, you can always watch on our Facebook page.

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw