

Divine Service - Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe..." (Heb. 12:28)

Opening Hymn: 645 ss. 1-5

1 Built on the Rock the church shall stand
even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
bells still are chiming and calling,
calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
longing for rest everlasting.

2 Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
high above earth His temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
chooses to live with us in love,
making our bodies His temple.

3 We are God's house of living stones,
built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell,
With all His grace and His favor.

4 Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us;
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.

5 Grant then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,

many in saving faith may come
where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know mine own, My own know Me,
you, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

Invocation

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of
the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

Call to Confession

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

CONG..... But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful
and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from
all unrighteousness.

Confession

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

CONG..... Most merciful God, we confess that we are by
nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned
against you in thought, word, and deed, by
what we have done and by what we have left
undone. We have not loved you with our whole
heart; we have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves. We justly deserve your present and
eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son,
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew
us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy
name. Amen.

Absolution

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to
die for you and for His sake forgives you all
your sins. As a called and ordained servant of
Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive
you all your sins in the name of the Father and
of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

The Introit of the Day

PS. 69:9, 14-16

For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.

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

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 beginning, Is now, and will be forever. Amen.

For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

The Kyrie

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the LORD.

CONG..... LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the LORD.

CONG..... LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: 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.

CONG..... LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the LORD.

CONG..... LORD, have mercy.

PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious LORD.

CONG..... Amen.

Choir: "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" #422 s. 1

On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,

Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

PASTOR: Collect of the Day.

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. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: EXODUS 20:1-17

1 And 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.

5 You 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,

6 but 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.

9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,

10 but 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.

11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on 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."

Gradual: HEB 12:2

[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 endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Epistle: I CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 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?

21 For 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.

22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us

wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Verse: JOHN 2:19

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

Holy Gospel: ST. JOHN 2:13-22

13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.

15 And 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.

16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."

17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?"

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

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

21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

22 When 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.

The Sermon Hymn: 579 ss. 1-6

1 The Law of God is good and wise
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we transgress.

2 Its light of holiness imparts
The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate

And turn from sin before too late.

3 To those who help in Christ have found
And would in works of love abound
It shows what deeds are His delight
And should be done as good and right.

4 But those who scornfully disdain
God's Law shall then in sin remain;
Its terror in their ear resounds
And keeps their wickedness 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

Sermon: “The Goodness of the Law” EXODUS 20:1-17

The Post-Sermon Hymn: 425 ss. 1-4

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

3 See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

The Apostles' Creed (We Confess Together)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into
heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I
believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer

The Collect for the Word

PASTOR: Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning, grant that we may in
such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and
inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort
of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold
fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You
have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one
God, world without end.

CONG: Amen.

The Benediction

PASTOR: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD
make His face shine on you and be gracious to
you. The LORD look upon you with favor and †
give you peace.

CONG: Amen.

Liturgist: Pastor Bill Abbott

Preacher: Pastor Brock Abbott

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