

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10 & 11, 2012

## AS WE GATHER

"No brag, just fact" says the arrogant. All of us have skeletons in our closets. All of us have regrets. All of us have secrets. If we brag ourselves up, we fear that someone may find our weakness and expose us. But if we boast in Jesus Christ, all our fears are covered by His blood. Our boast, our only boast, is Jesus Christ. He is our righteousness, He is our hope, and He is our salvation. This boast is not the empty word of the braggart but the confident boast of Him who has kept His every promise, and overcomes our every enemy.

**10:30 PRESERVICE BELL ANTHEM**     *"In Christ Alone"*     *Bell Choir*

## WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

**OPENING HYMN # 427**     *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

(Please rise)

## INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Deliver me from sinking into the mire;

**People: Deliver me from all my sins and my enemies and from the flood of death.**

Pastor: O Lord, your steadfast love is good.

**People: According to your abundant mercy, turn to me.**

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Since we are assembled here to hear the Word of God, to call upon Him in prayer, and to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is good that we reflect upon our unworthiness, confessing before God our sins of thought, word, and deed, and our helplessness to free ourselves from our sinful nature. It is also good that we remember who we are as the baptized children of God, to whom the Lord has shown His mercy, cleansed from all our sin, and declared righteous in Christ our Lord. We come here today to lay claim again to the grace in which we are forgiven, and, for the sake of Christ, to be restored by His mercy to serve Him and walk in His ways. Let us confess our sins.

**People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

## SALUTATION and COLLECT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: O Lord, your mercy always offers grace but we are too lost in our sins and fears to hear your call to hope. Reclaim us from our lost condition that we may know with joy your mercy and your steadfast love. Help us rejoice in the cross of Christ now and always; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Please be seated)

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

**OLD TESTAMENT** Exodus 20:1-17 (*In light of God's Law, we acknowledge the depth of our own guilt.*) And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female

servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. “You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery. “You shall not steal. “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (*The Word of the cross is folly to the perishing but to those who are saved it is the wisdom of God.*) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

**5:00 ANTHEM** *“Follow Me”* *Jr. Choir*

**8:00 ANTHEM** *“You Are Mine”* *St. Paul’s Choir*

**GOSPEL** John 2:13-25 (*Jesus clears the temple and points to His resurrection after three days as sign that He is who He claims to be.*) When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three

days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

(Please be seated)

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**SERMON HYMN # 435** **“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”**

### SERMON

(Please rise)

**NICENE CREED** (*found on the back cover of hymnal*)

(Please be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

**10:30 BELL ANTHEM** *“There Is A Fountain”* *Bell Choir*

(Please rise)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear God, Lord of the Church, we pray that you bless and guide pastor Harold Bender as he considers the call we have extended to him to serve as our senior pastor. Bless his family as they pray about this and as pastor Bender seeks your will, and our brothers and sisters at St. John Lutheran Church, whom pastor Bender now serves. This we pray according to your will, and in the name of Jesus.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, although we strive to keep your commandments, we often fall short. Please forgive us and help us to do better.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us Christ Jesus who died on the cross that we may have eternal life with you. Continue to keep our Guatemala team safe as they witness to the people of that country and as they prepare to travel back home.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We ask that you continue to be with the sick and suffering among us. Help them to turn to you in their time of need. Grant them knowledgeable and compassionate physicians and caregivers. Bring patience and understanding to their families. We pray for Harold, Elfrieda, Bea, Paula, Lois, Ruth, Joe, Dolores, and Samuel. Please be with our church family who mourn the loss of loved ones and those who remember loved ones who have already reached their heavenly reward. Help them to know they will be reunited again in Heaven. We pray for Al and his family. Surround with your protection all those serving in the military. Especially be with Steven, Eric, Eli, Jon, Ryan, Richard, Dan, and Josh. Be with our country in these turbulent times and raise up God fearing men and women to lead us. We praise and thank you for the young men in our seminaries preparing to shepherd us in the future. With joy we celebrate your blessings with Michael and Kristy.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Help us, especially in this Lenten season, to spend time in your word and to thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins. Help us to put into practice in the coming days the lessons we have learned here this day.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord + be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** *(Sung to the Tune: # 702 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee")*

O Lamb of God, we pray; Take all our sins away -- Our faith increase.

Have mercy on us all, Strengthen us when we fall,

Answer our fervent call And grant us peace.

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(Please be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

**10:30 BELL ANTHEM**

*"The Lamb"*

*Bell Choir*

**HYMN # 707 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"**

**HYMN # 570 "Just As I Am, Without One Plea"**

**HYMN # 715 "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"**

#### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O gracious God, you gave us your commandments to order our lives and protect us, to convict our hearts of sin, and to prepare us for the Gospel. As Jesus once cleansed the temple, we pray you to cleanse our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that there may be room only for faith in Jesus Christ and that we may boast in Him only; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

#### BENEDICTION

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN # 850 "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

Preacher

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lectors

Kathy Palmreuter, Virginia Sell, Russell Hurst

Acolytes

Andrew Thoren, Jonathan Burkee, Jon Chang

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller

Jr. Choir Director

Shannon Wiegert

Choir Director

Nancy Hoelke

Bell Choir Director

Jan Schneider