

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Invited to Repent

February 27 & 28, 2016

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

In our fallen human condition, the experiences of our lives appear to tell us about God's approval or judgment. We sometimes think that people with terrible problems are being punished. When life is easy, we slip into complacency, believing that God will overlook our minor sins. But God in His grace and mercy is always ready to forgive, if we will but repent. He proclaimed His invitation to repent through Ezekiel: "Why will you die, O house of Israel?" Through Paul, He promised help during temptation, "that you may be able to endure it." And in Jesus' parable, we see God withholding immediate judgment, as a tree is given another year to produce fruit. We do not know how long our "year" is; now is the time to reply to the invitation—and repent!

WELCOME

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Psalm 51:17

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion:
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven:
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Today is the Lord's Day, a Sunday *in* Lent, but not part *of* it—a little
Easter. Let us rejoice and be glad in it,

People: in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

People: and my mouth will declare your praise.

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**People: make haste to help me, O Lord. 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.**

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy,

**People: 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;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. (Be seated)

COMMISSIONING OF OUR GUATEMALA TEAM

✘ WORD ✘

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 33:7–20* (Turn back from evil and live.)

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. "Son of man, say to the house of Israel, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?" ' Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?' "Therefore, son of man, say to your countrymen, 'The righteousness of the righteous man will not save him when he disobeys, and the wickedness of the wicked man will not cause him to fall when he turns from it. The righteous man, if he sins, will not be allowed to live because of his former righteousness.' If I tell the righteous man that he will surely live, but then he trusts in his righteousness and does evil, none of the righteous things he has done will be remembered; he will die for the evil he has done. And if I say to the wicked man, 'You will surely die,' but he then turns away from his sin and does what is just and right-- if he gives back what he took in pledge for a loan, returns what he has stolen, follows the decrees that give life, and does no evil, he will surely live; he will not die. None of the sins he has committed will be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he will surely live. "Yet your countrymen say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' But it is their way that is not just. If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and does evil, he will die for it. And if a wicked man turns away from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he will live by doing so. Yet, O house of Israel, you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' But I will judge each of you according to his own ways."

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 10:1–13* (Do not take God for granted; resist temptation.)

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from

setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 13:1–9* (We have the opportunity to repent; now is the time.)

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' " 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

(Be seated)

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #425 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

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.

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.

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 continued

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

SERMON **“Bearing the Fruit of Repentance”** **Luke 13:1-9**

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERING 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: People loved by God, let us come before our Father’s throne of grace with confidence through our Lord Jesus and, in the power of His Spirit, ask His mercy for all in need. Merciful Father, your salvation is near to those who fear you. Look in kindness upon your whole Church and pour out on your family the gift of repentance and faith.

People: Bless your children by your grace, that they may heed your Word, turn from sin and find forgiveness and life in your Son.

Pastor: Giver of salvation, remember all pastors, especially our Synodical president, Matthew; and our district president, John; our pastors and all pastors, deaconesses, teachers, missionaries and servants of the Church.

People: Give them courage to speak your saving Word fearlessly, that it may do its mighty work by your Spirit’s power.

Pastor: Bless and be with our Groundwork Guatemala team, that they may share the faith and build others up according to their need.

People: Grant them safe travels, the leading of your Spirit, and joy in the journey.

Pastor: Kind and loving Lord, look in mercy upon this congregation. Remove all hypocrisy from us, and strengthen all our members that we may be living witnesses of your grace.

People: Bless us to live by faith in our homes, at work and at play.

Pastor: Mighty Monarch of our days, to you we commend all who have been entrusted with authority in our land and all who serve in our armed forces.

People: Grant them integrity and honor in all they undertake, and guide them into paths that are pleasing to you.

Pastor: Holy One, you tell us in your Word that you do not willingly afflict the sons of men. Hear our prayers for all your children who are suffering or in need, especially your servants Ruth, Debbie, Jeannine, Mae, Rosalie, Charlene, Bob, Marion, Richard, Marion, Debra, Helen, Leonard, LuEva, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Jack, Shirley, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah.

People: Comfort troubled hearts with the promises of your Word, surround them with your angels to protect them in body and soul, and grant them a happy release from their afflictions according to your will.

Pastor: Faithful God, you do not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear, but in trial you always provide the way of escape for us to bear it. Remember in pity all those whose faith is put to the test, who struggle with addictions, who feel abandoned.

People: Open the eyes of their hearts to sense you near them, and let them find in your Word and Sacrament the relief for which they long.

Pastor: God of grace and every blessing, we join with Dawn and Tim as they celebrate Virginia’s “21st Birthday” and Vince and LeAnn in their thankfulness for all our tournament volunteers.

People: Grant us to rejoice with all who celebrate and move us to count our blessings daily.

Pastor: Father of our Lord Jesus, your Son has prepared for His family a feast, that we might not grow weary in the struggle or despair of your mercy but find constant renewal. Grant to all who come to the holy altar this day repentant hearts and firm trust in the promise of the Savior.

People: Grant us peace as we receive His body and blood the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of a life that death cannot take away.

Pastor: Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of your faithful people of every time and place, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest until He comes again in power and great glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of

the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we are about to receive our Lord's body and blood in, with, and under this bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, let us make confession to our heavenly Father. With Ezekiel, we know that we ought to warn our friends when they turn away from the Lord.

People: We confess that we often remain silent, fearing the loss of friendship. We often do not tell them about the forgiveness God offers through Christ.

Pastor: With the psalmist we remember the "good old days" and ask God to restore our physical well-being and spiritual salvation.

People: We confess that sometimes we wonder if God is still listening to our prayers, perhaps angry for our past misdeeds.

Pastor: With the ancient Israelites we have passed through water—in Holy Baptism—and have eaten spiritual food and drink—in the Lord's Supper.

People: We confess that, like them, we have assumed that God will smile on us no matter how we live our lives.

Pastor: With the people of Jesus' day, we have heard the news of terrorism and physical disaster.

People: We confess that, like them, we may have thought that the victims might be worse sinners than we and under God's wrath.

Pastor: God has declared that He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us therefore confidently go to God, asking His forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Almighty God, heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful. We have failed to love you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have considered ourselves better than others; we have expected you to bless us in all things. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, forgive us, and by the power of your Holy Spirit cleanse our hearts and minds that we might walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Christ Jesus, true man and true God, was obedient to His Father in all things and in our place. By His death, He destroyed death, and by His rising opened eternal life to all who call on Him for forgiveness. 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. May God strengthen you in your Lenten journey toward the joys of Easter.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

(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.

HYMN #440 "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.

Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion.

Grant that I You passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

HYMN #629 "What Is This Bread"

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free! I do believe
That I receive His very body and His blood. O taste and see the Lord is good.

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

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hope deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a
foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and
blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage
that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints,
celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no
end; 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

Pastor: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His
people, to His saints;

People: but let them not turn back to folly.

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you in His forgiving embrace. The LORD
make His face shine on you in steadfast love and faithfulness. The LORD
look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #919 “Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with your grace
that satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with your Word,
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav’nly brightness Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us From error’s gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through Your Word.

Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and satan fell us And overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Children’s Message

Organist

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Grant Gundersen, Laurel Privatt

Abigail Fellenbaum, Zander Maxwell

Laurel Privatt

Roger Gottschalk