

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

The Law Is Good
March 3 & 4, 2018

AS WE GATHER

"The Law is bad and the Gospel is good." Wait a second! While this statement might make sense on the surface, it's false. God's Word of Law and Gospel are both good—and necessary. While it may be easy for us to see how the Gospel, centered in Jesus Christ, is good, maybe it's not so easy to see how the Law is good. Yet, it is. God's Law is a curb guarding against evil. God's Law is a guide leading us in God's ways. Chiefly, however, God's Law is a mirror showing us our sin and need for a Savior. Thanks be to God that Jesus is that Savior who has fulfilled the Law perfectly for you!

WELCOME

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."
(Psalm 51:10-12, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

"Thy Word"

W&R 664

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Refrain

I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side; and I will love you to the end.

Refrain

(Rise)

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: O Lord, throughout these forty days

People: You prayed and kept the fast;

Pastor: Inspire repentance for our sin,

People: And free us from our past. Amen.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

People: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

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: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of 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.

HYMN OF CONFESSION #611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" Stanzas 1,5

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray, O God, the Law no longer condemns, for Christ came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets.

People: Grant that by faith we would live as your people with your Law as our guide;

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)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 20:1–17* (The Ten Commandments)

And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me. “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. 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, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. “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.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep 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, 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. 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. “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. “You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery. “You shall

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not steal. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. “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.”

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:18–31* (“We preach Christ crucified.”)

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. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” 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? 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. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 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. 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; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

CHOIR ANTHEM (8:00) *“Speak, O Lord”*

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:30) *“Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands”*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 2:13–25* (Jesus drives the money-changers from the temple.) The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the

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coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 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. Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #454 "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"

5:00 & 10:30 soloist sings verse 1 & congregation joins rest of hymn

8:00 choir sings verse 1 & congregation joins rest of hymn

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay;
Tell how Christ, the world's redeemer, As a victim won the day.

Tell how, when at length the fullness Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman, Left for us His Father's home,
Blazed the path of true obedience, Shone as light amidst the gloom.

Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did His work, and met His death;
Like a lamb He humbly yielded On the cross His dying breath.

Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the no-blest tree;
Non in foliage, non in blossom, None in fruit thine equal be;
Symbol of the world's redemption, For the weight that hung on the tree!

(Rise) Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.

SERMON

"Written in Stone"

Exodus 20:1-17

(Rise)

NICENE 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.

SOLO DURING OFFERING (5:00 & 10:30) *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For true wisdom in Christ, that the faithful may recognize that the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of the world, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For a true zeal for the Gospel, that all Christians may recognize the privilege it is to share Christ and comfort others with the comfort we have received, and that God would bless the Ferry family and Rachel Meyer who serve in far away lands, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For a daily return to Baptism, repentance and sorrow for sin, that the old Adam in us should be drowned and die with all evil desires, and a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them back home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all who have been given positions of authority and public trust, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all who serve in worthy occupations, professions, arts and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and valued service through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the gift of marriage, especially for the Weigand family as they celebrate Tom and Samantha who have been united in holy marriage, that they may live together in holy love all their days, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all the faithful, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who are hospitalized, recovering from surgery, facing chronic pain or long-term health problems, and all who suffer as a result of living in a fallen world especially, Lisa, Nancy, Dorothy, Joyce, Sue, Janet, Donna, Dolores, Pat, Cliff, Jerry, Manley, Debbie, Pat, Charles, Ruth, Shirley, Gladys, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, LuEva, Jean, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard, Dawn, and Sarah, that God would grant mercy and perseverance, as well as healing according to His good and gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who mourn, especially the families of Eleanor Luebke and Shirley Schuppert, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection, we draw strength from His ascension before you, where He ever reigns for us as our own high priest. Gather us from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 #434 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

Stanza 1

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

(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 #618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain:

Lord, May Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art:
Refrain

Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden my heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain*

What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and Spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

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

God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure Your children's warring madness; Bend our pride to Your control:
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.

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?

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!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of
your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith
toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus
Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SENTENCES

Pastor: Be with us through this season, Lord,

People: And all our earthly days,

Pastor: That when the final Easter dawns,

People: We join in heaven's praise. Amen.

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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #645 “Built on the Rock”

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spiers in ev’ry land; Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

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.

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.

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.

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 My own; My own know me. You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Russell Hurst, Carri Becker, John Ficken
Acolytes	Isabella Foti, Olivia Kukor, Ashley Vogt
Organist & 5K- Grade 1 Director	Michelle Prince
Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke
Soloist	Anna Carson