

### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

#### FOOLISH THINGS

March 7 & 8, 2015

5:00pm & 8:00am

#### AS WE GATHER

Paul is addressing the Corinthian Church about divisions in this troubled congregation. "Is Christ divided?" Paul asks his readers. Christ sent him to preach the Gospel, he states. Moreover, the Apostle observes, "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..." What is that "message of the cross"? Paul responds: "We preach Christ crucified; a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

#### WELCOME

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you:  
Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought,  
but rather think of yourself with sober judgment,  
in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.  
(Romans 12:3, NIV)

#### FELLOWSHIP GREETING

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### OPENING HYMN

"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

AGPS #247

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.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Now 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.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

(Rise)

#### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

#### OPENING SENTENCES *Based on 1 Corinthians 1:24–25 and 1 Corinthians 8:2–3*

Pastor: Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**People: The foolishness of God is wiser than men,**

Pastor: and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**People: If anyone imagines that he knows something,**

Pastor: he does not yet know as he ought to know.

**People: But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.**

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Based on Psalm 51:4; 1 Corinthians 1:27–31*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father. Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

**People: Against you, O LORD, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

Pastor: We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

**People: Against you, O LORD, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

Pastor: We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**People: Against you, O LORD, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

Pastor: We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment.

**People: Against you, O LORD, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: 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. He is the source of your life in Christ, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. 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.**

#### SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, through your servant Moses long ago, you gave the Ten Commandments to reveal your will for our way of life. Like the Israelites of old, we fail to hear and to do. By the power of the cross, drive out from our hearts, minds, and lives whatever would draw us away from you; through Jesus Christ, 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: "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 idol 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 fathers 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 manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. 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 manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

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

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 man? Where is the scholar? 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 miraculous 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 man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. Brothers, 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. He 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 him who boasts boast in the Lord."

**5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM** "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" Choral Setting by Lloyd Larson

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing your song again. Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes. Bless the Lord, O my soul, my soul; worship his holy name. Sing like never before, my soul; You're rich in love and you're slow to anger. Your name is great and your heart is kind. For all your goodness, I will keep on singing; ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name. And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come; still my soul will sing your praise upending ten thousand years and then forevermore! Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name. I'll worship your holy name.

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 2:13–25* (Jesus drives the money-changers from the temple.)

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men 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 area, 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! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous 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." The Jews 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 Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name.

But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON HYMN #423 "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

### SERMON "FOOLISH THINGS" 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(Rise)

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

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

(Rise)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Because our heavenly Father promises to hear our prayers and come to our aid, let us pray for ourselves, our fellow Christians and all people.

Father in heaven, we pray for all your baptized children that they would be spiritually blessed during this season of Lent.

**People: We pray that the Old Adam in us, by daily contrition and repentance, would be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son displayed great zeal for the Gospel of salvation and the worship of His Father's house. Grant that we passionately care for God's house as our Savior did.

**People: Help us to boldly speak of what is often viewed as the foolishness of the cross, and bless us with a never-ending desire to learn the Scriptures and receive His forgiveness.**

Pastor: Lord of life, empower us by your Spirit to lead holy lives and help us to believe that Christ has cleansed our bodies to be God's temples.

**People: Having been delivered from sin's house of slavery, grant that our words and deeds show forth love to both God and our neighbor.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we rejoice that Joshua John Hafemann is baptized into Christ this weekend and made a member of Christ's eternal kingdom.

**People: Bless Daniel and Michelle to raise Joshua in the faith and grant him to grow with us as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of Harlyn Hansen, that you would comfort them with your promises and fill them with peace. We pray also for those who are sick or distressed, especially Kim, Helen, Sharon, Carleen, Charles, Shirley, Dennis, Marion, Jack, Virginia, Dolores, Ginger, Gretchen, Mark, Richard, Lois and Sarah.

**People: Grant them peace now and healing at the right time; and fill us all with the hope of life everlasting in the place prepared for us by Christ our Lord.**

Pastor: Lord of the nations, we pray for those who govern in our world, that they would be blessed with wisdom from above and lead us in good and right ways.

**People: Guide them to godly decisions, inspire them to defend life and uphold justice, and bless them in their calling to lead the peoples entrusted to their care.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, we give you thanks for all the precious people that you place in our lives, even our dearly departed loved ones. Bless the Weil family as they remember Cindy on her birthday.

**Pastor: Bless us all to cherish our family members and to look forward to a reunion with those who have departed this life in the faith.**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, we pray for all the faithful who receive Christ's body and blood this day, asking your Holy Spirit to grant us true repentance and sincere faith that believes this simple gift is God's power for our salvation.

**People: Fill us with joy because we are receiving Jesus, who is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.**

Pastor: Gracious Father, as you have promised, hear and answer the prayers we bring before your throne of grace through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives with you and the 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**

*Page 163*

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(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 #588 "Jesus Loves Me"**

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.

He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in. Yes Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

#### **HYMN #579 "The Law of God Is Good and Wise"**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

#### **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."

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: We thank you, God, that with this gift of the body and blood of Jesus,  
you cleanse our hearts. Give us, we pray, the power to resist temptation  
and to live in ways that keep your commandments; 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: Christ Jesus is the power of God and the wisdom of God. With hearts  
cleansed by the cross of Jesus, you are set free to love and serve the  
Lord. 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 #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.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Puppeteer

Choir Director

Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender

Russell Hurst, Bob Reynolds

Madeline Matusewic, Ben Leiser

Laurel Privatt

Nancy Hoelke

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