

**The Third Sunday in Lent**  
**March 3, 2024**  
**9:30am Worship & Communion**

**The Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**\* Confession & Forgiveness p. 94-96**

*P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

*P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.***

*P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*P: Most merciful God, **C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.***

*P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.***

**\* Gathering Hymn #660**

**“Lift High The Cross”**

**\* Greeting p. 147** *P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.***

**\* Kyrie p. 147** *P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.***

*P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*P: 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. **C: Lord, have mercy.***

*P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.***

*P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.***

**\* This is the Feast p. 149**

**\* The Prayer of the Day (all pray)** *Father in heaven, as we walk together, on the road to the cross, during the season of Lent, we pray that the Holy Spirit will fill our hearts, with a desire to know Jesus, more deeply than we have ever known him before. Set our hearts on fire, so that our lives may bear witness to the world, about the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.***

## **First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17**

**20** And God spoke all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>“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. <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>“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. <sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>“You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>“You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>“You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>“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.”

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsive Reading: Psalm 19**

L:<sup>19</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**C:<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.**

L:<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

**C:<sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,**

L:<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

**C:<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

L:<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

**C:<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;**

L:<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

**C:<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

L:<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**C:<sup>12</sup> Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**

L:<sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

**ALL:<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

## **Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup> 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? <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

\* **Gospel Acclamation** p. 151

\* **Gospel Announcement**

\* Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

\* **The Gospel Lesson: John 2:13-22**

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

<sup>18</sup> So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> 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.

*Pastor:* The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon**

**Hymn #157** (TOSB sing twice)

**"Open Our Eyes"**

**The Sermon**

**"True Moral Authority"**

**Pastor William Shields**

(sermon text: John 2:13-22)

\* **Apostle's Creed** p. 105

**The Hymn of the Day #759**

**"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"**

**Offering**

\* **Offering Response #186**

**Prayers**

\* **Words of Institution**

\* **The Lord's Prayer** p. 154 **C: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Communion**

*In the Lord's Supper, we believe that Jesus is truly present in this meal to share His forgiveness and grace. All who share our faith are welcome. Communing children should hold their hand out to receive the bread. Cross arms in front to receive a blessing. Come down the center aisle to receive the bread from Pastor, an assistant on either side will serve the wine or white grape juice. Return to your seats using the side aisles. During Communion, please join in singing ELW hymns # 335, 337, 347, 339.*

\* **Blessing**

\* **Benediction**

\* **Sending Hymn #821**

**“Shout To The Lord”**

\* **Dismissal** *P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

**Announcements:**

	<b><u>Weekly Events:</u></b>
Mon. Mar. 4	<b>1:30pm Worship Comm.</b>
Tues. Mar. 5	7:00am – Jr. High Study 1:00pm – Library <b>7:00pm – Committee Night</b>
Wed Mar 6	6:30am – Men's Bible Study 7:00am – Sr. High Bible Study 11:00am – Pastor's Bible Study 5:30pm – Soup Supper 1:00pm – Prayer Group 6:00pm – Choir Practice 6:00pm – Confirmation 7:00pm – Lenten Service
Thurs Mar 7	1:00pm – Quilters 6:00pm – Pastor's Bible Study
Sat Mar 9	7:00am – Gideon's Prayer meeting
	<b>Sunday, March 10 – 9:30 am Worship Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship</b>

**Lenten Services  
Mar. 6, 13, 20**  
**Soup Suppers 5:30 pm  
Lenten Services 7:00 pm**  
**Please sign up to bring soup or  
help in the kitchen.**

Continued prayers for: Loren Cook, Karen May, Nancy O'Connor (mother of Chad Errio), Shawn Lewis (friend of Dave Little), Eric Davis (brother-in-law of Rob Buchanan), Bud Wedding (on hospice), Michael Frandsen (Lani Swinford's brother). Others: Gary Schaihl, Nick & Sandi Smith & daughter Melissa, Dave Little, Pam Zibert, Jackie Pilcher, Jennifer Jaques, Remington Schafer, Barb Fiste, Char Morger.

**Ladies Craft Party  
2:00pm Today  
Corner Chair  
414 S. Main St., Princeton**

Thrivent Choice Dollars  
If you haven't directed your 2023  
Choice Dollars, you have until  
March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Lutheran World Relief  
“A Season of Hope”**  
We're spreading God's love this Lent by making Personal Care Kits for those in need in the poorest parts of the world. The first two weeks of Lent, we will be collecting dark bath towels and bars of soap. Check the display in the back. Also on display is a map showing where the quilts & kits went last year. Thank you for your generosity. Questions: see Karen May.