

March 6, 2021 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

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.**

I CORINTHIANS 1:18, ESV

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 6, 2021 ~ 5:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

As we enter the midpoint of this Lenten season, today's Readings invite us to pause and assess our lives. Some of us are trying to make changes during this season—fasting, reinvigorating prayer, and doing extra acts of mercy. Whenever we try such things, we are reminded again of our own weakness. Try as we might, we cannot do it all perfectly. In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus knows this too. That is why His entire life and ministry was given to cleansing our hearts and minds, forgiving our sins not seven times but seventy-seven times and more. As He cast the money-changing from the temple, so He again and again casts our sins away. We know our weakness and sin. Jesus knows too. He suffered and died for us, so that anyone who loves God is known by God. Through the cross of Jesus, we are known by God as His dear children.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PIANO PRELUDE *"The Power of the Cross with Lift High the Cross"* Arr. C. Tornquist

WELCOME

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.**

HYMN

"Not All the Blood of Beasts"

[Isaac Watts / William Daman. Public domain]

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay her hand
On that dear head divine
As penitently here I stand,
Confessing guilt is mine.

My soul looks back to see
The burden you did bear
When hanging on the cursed tree;
I know my guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing his bleeding love.

PSALM *Psalm 19:7–11*

Pastor: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Pastor: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Pastor: the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;

People: the just decrees of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

Pastor: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

People: sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Pastor: Moreover, by them is Your servant warned;

People: in keeping them there is great reward.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Almighty Father; we enter your presence confessing the things we try to conceal from you and the things we try to conceal from others. We confess the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow we have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive us, the times we have made it easy for others to do wrong, the harm we have done that makes it hard for us to forgive ourselves. Lord have mercy and forgive us through Christ. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, who in wisdom created us, though we would become weak and rebellious creatures, knowing that Your Son's sacrifice of Himself on the cross would be necessary to save us,

People: keep us strong in faith, so that we preach only Christ crucified and boast only in Your strong love and mercy toward us,

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Exodus 20:1-17*

Reader: 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.

People: "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Reader: "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

People: 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.

People: "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,

Reader : for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

People: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Reader: 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 the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

People: “Honor your father and your mother,

Reader: that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

People: “You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall 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.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 *(The foolish 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.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: *John 2:13–22 (23–25)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Drawn to the Cross"

[Genevieve Irons / Joseph Barnby. Public Domain]

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ Crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ Crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ Crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ Crucified, I come.

SERMON: "The Message of the Cross" I Corinthians 1: 18-25

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God almighty—the Father who created all that exists; the Son, by whose death we have life; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in our hearts that we may boast only in the Lord—bless you and keep you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"The Old Rugged Cross"

[George Bennard. © 1941 Word, Inc., Rodeheaver Co.; CCLI #254312]

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

REFRAIN:

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.**

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. (**Refrain**)

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. (**Refrain**)

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. (**Refrain**)

[Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.]

Serving Us

Vacancy Pastor ... Rev. Ronald Habedank

Organist ... Katherine Herman

Piano ... Jean Newton

Singers ... Linda Meissner, Marie Thompson

Reader ... Jean Newton

Altar ... Judy Boersch

Deacon ... Dan Sullivan

Trinity Lutheran Church

146 Reserve Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

(716) 674-9188

E-Mail: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net

Website: www.trinitywestseneca.com

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Ronald Habedank - (585) 902-6005