

WELCOMING WORD *The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The heavens declare the glory of God;

C: and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

L: The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;

C: the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

L: The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;

C: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

L: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

C: O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

OPENING HYMN #559 *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; he sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood avails for me.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav'n.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Fountain of living water,

C: pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

P: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

C: Amen.

INVOCATION

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Holy God,

C: through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 20:1-17 ¹Then God spoke all these words. ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where 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? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22 ¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After 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.

MESSAGE Intern Tamara Siburg

HYMN #506 *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our fev'rish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind; in purer lives thy service find,
In deeper rev'rence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.

Oh, Sabbath rest by Galilee, oh, calm of hills above;
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in our Lenten journey, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering (*especially*). Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interest. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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. 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 *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.*

CLOSING HYMN: #294 My Hope Is built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

REFRAIN On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. **REFRAIN**

His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away, He then is all my hope and stay. **REFRAIN**

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne! **REFRAIN**



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Bonnie Bender
Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag)
Allen Olson (father of Ingrid Frank)
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Jeannie U'Ren
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Irene Bruflat
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang

Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin)
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)
Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Makenzee Smith
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)
Mary Krantz
Ruth Ann Nemet
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Shirley Thompson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARKING LOT WORSHIP We are planning to have parking lot worship on March 14th and March 28th.

FUSE NIGHTS on ZOOM Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, Tuesdays, March 9th & 23rd at 7 pm. Time for games and a chance to connect. Email Brenda for the link.



LENTEN PLAYS (Help needed)- During our Lenten Wednesday worship services this year, we will be sharing plays that have Paul (in heaven) reading and answering letters from 21st century people. We need 2 teen girls & one adult male to act out these plays. If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor John, Tamara or Brenda know.

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT March 20th, 11 AM-12 PM. Our 5th graders are invited to our First Communion Retreat on Zoom on Sat, March 20th. Packets will be available in early March for families to read over together, prior to the retreat.

ELC YOUTH EASTER FUNDRAISERS -

EASTER EGG HUNT - HOME DELIVERY -
Youth will hide the treats for you!

EASTER CINNAMON ROLLS - Enjoy tasty homemade rolls on Easter!

Please sign up by March 19th

SIGN UP LINK:
<https://forms.gle/8YYGRQnynLws8RwK8>

*HE IS RISEN
alleluia*

YOUTH WEEKLY CLASSES ON ZOOM:

- SUNDAY SCHOOL meets on Sundays at 9 am
- CONFIRMATION meets on Wednesdays at 7 pm.

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on ZOOM Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM each week to catch up with our church family. Time to connect and see each other! Zoom link is emailed each week. If you need the link, contact Pastor John, Tamara or Brenda.

CONFIRMATION CAMP (SAVE THE DATE) ELC will be attending the Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek Bible Camp the week of July 25 - July 30. 7th-8th graders are encouraged to attend. Register online: <http://wp.sugarcreek bible camp.org>.

SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE" Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreek bible camp.org>, for youth

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 84, The Joy of Worship in the Temple

Tuesday, Hebrews 9:23-28, Christ's Sacrifice Takes Away Sin

Wednesday, Mark 11:15-19, Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Thursday, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles

Friday, Ephesians 1:7-14, Spiritual Blessings in Christ

Saturday, Numbers 20:22-29, The Death of Aaron

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: “[Jesus] also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” (John 2:15-16). *When preparing for the coming Passover, Jesus finds the temple full of people profiting off of those wanting to offer up sacrifices to God. This angered him so he drove them out of the temple.*

- Have you ever been angry? How have you responded to your anger?
- What might your anger be trying to tell you?
- How can your anger be transformed or channeled into showing love toward God, yourself, your neighbors, and creation?

PRAY: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESS: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. **Amen.**