

**The Third Sunday in Lent  
March 7, 2021**

*in the 168<sup>th</sup> Year of the Parish*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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**Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”**

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**PRELUDE**      *Consolator*

J. Bert Carlson (b. 1937)

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**C**     **Amen**

**P**     Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires 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.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**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  $\dagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen**

**\*HYMN** **In the Cross of Christ I Glory**

**In the cross of Christ I glory,  
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.**

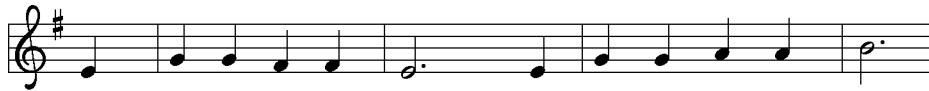
Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872  
Tune: RATHBUN

**\*THE GREETING**

**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**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us 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.

**C** **Amen**

### **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*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.*

**THE FIRST LESSON.....Exodus 20:1-17**

1God 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.

The word of the Lord.

## C Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 19

1The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

**2One day tells its tale | to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

3Although they have no | words or language,  
and their voices | are not heard,

**4their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the  
ends | of the world,  
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

5It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

**6It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to  
the end of | it again;  
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.**

7The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

**8The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

9The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

**10More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

11By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

**12Who can detect one's | own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get  
dominion | over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

**14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
acceptable | in your sight,**

**O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

**THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

18The 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.

The word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**\*THE GOSPEL.....John 2:13-22**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter

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

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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

### **\*THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith:

C **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**\*THE PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace, with masks in place, avoiding physical touch and consciously staying six feet apart from one another.*

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Hear Us, O God/Your Mercy is Great.**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

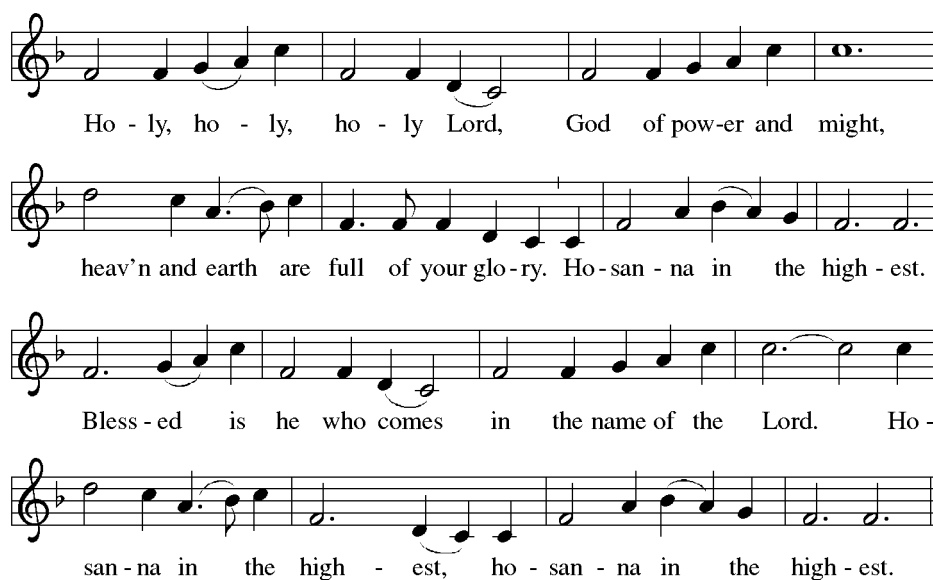
**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

**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**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** Jesus draws the whole world to himself.  
Come to this meal and be fed.

**C** **Amen**

### **THE COMMUNION**

### **LAMB OF GOD**

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P God of steadfast love,  
 at this table you gather your people  
 into one body for the sake of the world.  
 Send us in the power of your Spirit,  
 that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new  
 in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*THE BLESSING

P 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.

C Amen

### \*HYMN The Clouds of Judgment Gather

**The clouds of judgment gather;  
 the time is growing late;  
 be sober and be watchful;  
 our judge is at the gate:  
 the judge who comes in mercy,  
 the judge who comes in might**

**to put an end to evil  
and diadem the right.**

**Arise, O true disciples;  
let wrong give way to right,  
and penitential shadow  
to Jesus' blessed light:  
the light that has no evening,  
that knows no moon or sun,  
the light so new and golden,  
the light that is but one.**

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978  
Tune: DURROW

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Beach Spring* Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

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**Prayer List:** Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield. Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, George Kissinger, Philip Thomas.

**LEADING US IN WORSHIP**

**LECTORS** 8 am Ruth Rees/ 10:30 am Donna Boston  
**CANTOR/SONG LEADER (10:30 am)** Deb Buckman  
**ORGANIST** Sam Robinson

**USHERS: March 7**

**8 am** Dick Miller, Herb Poff

**10:30 am** Carl Albright - Captain: Brenda, Owen, Levi Gair, Sally Bjornstad  
(side door)

**Our Altar Flowers** today are given to the glory of God:

In loving memory of Dr. Ted Larson and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Shipman by Mrs. Jane Larson.

In loving memory of our parents Dick and Marty Pryor and Shuman and Lori Miller by Tom and Becky Miller Pryor.

***Our Stewardship (for the period 2/28-3/01/21)***

<b>Regular Offering</b>	<b>\$ 4,661</b>
<b>Plate Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>
<b>Lent</b>	<b>\$ 276</b>
<b>Initial</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>
<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>\$ 4</b>
<b>Disaster Relief</b>	<b>\$ 116</b>
<b>Flowers, Memorials, Tributes</b>	<b>\$ 135</b>
<b>Pastor's Discretionary Fund</b>	<b>\$ 40</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,262.00</b>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Spring Forward!** Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one full hour this coming Saturday evening (March 13).

**Camp Mt. Luther** is gearing up for Summer 2021! Camping brochures, information regarding openings for staff and volunteers and special events held at the camp are available from our Church Office (570-323-4619).

**Lutheran Disaster Relief**

Sub-freezing temperatures and heavy snow has impacted millions of people across our nation, especially in Texas and other southern states. This has led to power, water and food shortages. Lutheran Disaster Relief Response seeks to provide short-term and long-term relief. You can help. An offering basket alongside our regular offering basket has been provided for your convenience. If you choose to give by check, please indicate "US Severe Storms" on the memo line. Thank you.

**By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School have resumed (Worship, 8:00 am and 10:30 am; Church School, 9:15 am). Please follow all CDC and St. Mark protocols which include mask-wearing, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones. Mid-week Lenten Services (Wednesdays in Lent) are virtual (video only) and may be viewed on our web site and Facebook page. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).**

**COVID CONTACT:** Please note that your attendance at both of the worship services will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## **COMEMMORATIONS**

**Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202**

*Sunday, March 7, 2021*

Vibia Perpetua was a noblewoman, and Felicity her slave, who were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

**Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society**

*Wednesday, March 10, 2021*

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

**Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604**

*Friday, March 12, 2021*

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

