

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 7, 2021

## Worship Focus

**“I Promise” – Impossible Expectations**



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# Order of Service for THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

**Service of Word and Sacrament**

*Christian Worship, p. 26*

*Service of Word and Sacrament © Northwestern Publishing House 1993.*

*"Thank the Lord" Tune: Richard Hillert. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Augsburg Fortress*

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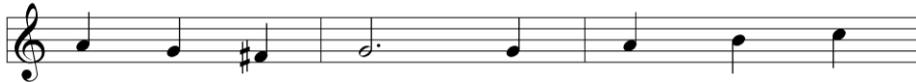
## ✠ Gathering ✠

**OPENING HYMN**

**401 – Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ**



1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad -  
 2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, Can heal  
 3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne  
 4 Your death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid  
 5 Your right - eous - ness, O Christ, A - lone



ness to this heart. They tell me all  
 my sin - ful soul; Your wounds, not mine,  
 the dread - ful load Of sins that none  
 the ran - som due; Ten thou - sand deaths  
 can cov - er me; No oth - er right -



is done; They bid my fear de - part.  
 con - tain The balm that makes me whole.  
 could bear But the in - car - nate God.  
 like mine Would have been all too few.  
 eous - ness Can set a sin - ner free.

*Refrain*

To whom but you, who can a - lone For  
sin a - tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.  
Tune: ST. JOHN (66 66 88) *The Parish Choir*, London, 1850.

## INVOCATION

**Minister** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation** And also with you.

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

**M** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me a sinner.

**M** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

## ✘ The Word ✘

### FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17

*God thundered down to Israel his Ten Commandments!  
The love God expects is impossible for the sinner... which drives us to his grace.*

EXODUS 20:1 And God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> “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. <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping 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, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land 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 give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “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.”

## SECOND LESSON

## 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

*What is more impossible than to rely on the “weakness” of God displayed in Christ crucified for our salvation.*

1 CORINTHIANS 1:22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,<sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has 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 man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

## GOSPEL

## John 2:13-22

*“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” Impossible... but not with God!*

JOHN 2:13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!”

<sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup> Then the Jews demanded of him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

<sup>20</sup> The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?”<sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body.<sup>22</sup> 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.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*After the reading of the Gospel the congregation responds:*



# HYMN OF THE DAY

# 378 – All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall



1 All man - kind fell in Ad - am's fall;  
 2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps  
 3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone,  
 4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came  
 5 As by one man all man - kind fell



One com - mon sin in - fects us all.  
 And us in dread - ful bond - age keeps;  
 Flow thoughts and deeds of sin a - lone;  
 To bear our sin and woe and shame,  
 And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,



From one to all the curse de - scends,  
 In guilt we draw our in - fant breath  
 God's im - age lost, the dark - ened soul  
 To be our life, our light, our way,  
 So by one Man, who took our place,



And o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.  
 And reap its fruits of woe and death.  
 Nor seeks nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.  
 Our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.  
 We all were jus - ti - fied by grace.

6 We thank you, Christ; new life is ours,  
 New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs;  
 This grace our ev'ry way attend  
 Until we reach our journey's end.

Text: Lazarus Spengler, 1479–1534, abr.; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, st. 1-4, 6, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 5, alt.

Tune: WENN WIR IN HÖCHSTEN NÖTEN SEIN (LM) Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561.

## ✠ Sermon ✠

Exodus 20:1-17

# The Impossible Terms of God's Covenant of Love

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.

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,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

## Announcements and Musical Offering

*We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.*

*Offerings can be given in any of three ways:*

- 1. Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- 2. On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- 3. On your phone with the Give+ app (a Vanco product)*

*Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card. The Connection Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website, <https://calvarydallas.org>*

## ✘ Prayers ✘

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, save the generations that will come after us from Your punishment by filling us with Your Son's zeal for Your house in these Lenten days, that we may cast out every idol from our hearts and love only You and Your commandments. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in Your fear, and that children would honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, whose steadfast love in Christ is good, turn in Your abundant mercy to \_\_\_\_\_ and all who suffer in our midst, that the flood may not sweep over them nor the pit close its mouth on them. Deliver them from sinking into the mire and deep waters, and grant them healing, comfort and peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You bless this day and make it holy with Your Word and the gifts of Your altar. Grant us to come before You in humble repentance to eat Your Son's body and blood, that we may not boast in ourselves in Your presence but in Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, as three days after the temple of Your Son's body was destroyed by wicked men He raised it up again, grant that on the Last Day we and all the saints who now rest in Your presence may share in the glory of His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

## ✠ The Sacrament ✠

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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



C: A - men.

## DISTRIBUTION

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

## 287 – The Law of God is Good and Wise



1 The law of God is good and wise; It sets his  
2 The law is good, but since the fall Its ho - li -  
3 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge  
4 To Je - sus we for ref - uge flee, Who from the



will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of right - eous -  
ness con - demns us all; It dooms us for our sins to  
of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -  
curse has set us free, And hum - bly wor - ship at his



ness, But dooms to death when we trans - gress.  
die And has no pow'r to jus - ti - fy.  
tate And seek re - lief be - fore too late.  
throne, Saved by his grace through faith a - lone.

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, abr., alt.

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg*, Wittenberg, 1543, alt.

## ✘ Sending ✘

## PRAYER

**M** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## BLESSING

**M** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



## CLOSING HYMN

### 323 – Almighty Father, Bless the Word

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through your  
2 We praise you for the means of grace As home - ward  
grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious seed  
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who wor -  
take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit.  
shipped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.

Text: Scandinavian hymn; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnary*, Decorah, 1913, alt.  
Tune: OLD HUNDREDDTH (LM) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

*After worship, please feel free to greet your neighbors OUTSIDE,  
keeping in mind the social distancing recommendations of six feet spacing.*



**Destroy  
this  
temple,  
and**

**I will raise it  
again in three  
days”**

**John 2:19, NIV**