

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

March 7, 2021

10:00 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *Church Sonata in Eb, K. 67*

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

prerecorded by Kristin Sande and Kristina Bock, violin; Byron Klimek, cello; Karen Sande, organ

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

KYRIE

Assisting Minister

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

All

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -

le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Assisting Minister

Petition..... let us pray.

For peace between nations, faithfulness in the Church, and the healing of creation, let us pray: **Kyrie** . . .
 For those who seek the light, those who thirst for mercy, and all who long for God, let us pray: **Kyrie** . . .
 For those who are hungry, grieving or in pain, abandoned or afraid, let us pray: **Kyrie** . . .

Assisting Minister

Help, save, com-fort and de - fend us, O

All

God. A -

<i>To the Prayer of the Day</i>	<i>To the Evening Hymn of Praise</i>
men.	men.

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.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #342 *There in God's Garden*



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of promise, 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Diane O. Loufman

FIRST READING *Exodus 20:1-17*

read by Brad Oachs

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.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

read by Lezlie Oachs

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.”

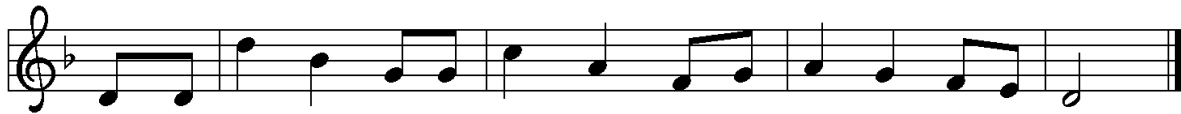
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For 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 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.

Word of God.
Word of Life.

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.

GOSPEL *John 2:13-22*

The Holy Gospel according to John.
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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY #736 *God the Sculptor of the Mountains*



1	God	the sculp-tor	of the	moun-tains,	God	the mill-er	of the
2	God	the nui-sance	to the	Pha-raoh,	God	the cleav-er	of the
3	God	the dress-er	of the	vine-yard,	God	the plant-er	of the
4	God	the un-ex-pect-ed	in-fant,		God	the calm, de-ter-mined	



sand,	God	the jewel-er	of the	heav-ens,
sea,	God	the pil-lar	in the	dark-ness,
wheat,	God	the reap-er	of the	har-vest,
youth,	God	the ta-ble-turn-ing		proph-et,



God	the pot-ter	of the	land:	you	are womb	of all	cre-
God	the bea-con	of the	free:	you	are fount	of all	de-
God	the source	of all	we eat:	you	are host	at ev-'ry	
God	the re-sur-rect-ed	truth:		you	are pres-ent	ev-'ry	



a-	tion,	we	are form-less;	shape	us	now.
liv-	'rance,	we	are sight-less;	lead	us	now.
ta-	ble,	we	are hun-gry;	feed	us	now.
mo-	ment,	we	are search-ing;	meet	us	now.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Boundless God, remind us:

WE ARE Created by an ever-present, loving God,
 Deeply rooted in Christ Jesus
 Equipped to be resilient amidst change,
 Grounded in community,
 Free to struggle, grow and expand,
 Compelled to reach out in response,
 Renewed in hope each day.

God, speak these words to us today, plant them within us,
 that we may find our identity in you. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
 Your mercy is great.

or

Bless we the Lord,
 Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GOD EXTENDS AN INVITATION

ELCA World Hunger

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Hear My Cry, O God* text from Psalm 61; Cesar Franck (1822-1890)
prerecorded by Aine Miller, soprano; Karen Sande, piano

*Hear my cry, O God, attend unto my prayer;
From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee,
When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.
For Thou hast been a shelter for me and a strong tower from the enemy.
When I cry unto God then shall my enemies turn back; this I know, for God is for me.
In God will I praise His word, in God I have put my trust, in God will I praise His word.
Let my mouth be filled with praise, and with Thy honor all the day. Amen.*

OFFERING PRAYER

God's time is fulfilled and the reign of God has come near.

We are humbled by your generosity, we seek to respond by walking in your ways.

Receive these offerings that they may be used

to glorify you and serve those in need. Through Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deuteronomy 2:7

We return to the wilderness of Lent still thirsting to be together, still hungry for communion. Longing to return to this table, we remember that when the Israelites were wandering in the desert, they cried out to God and God sent manna. We know that in times of crisis, God feeds hungry people. Tear off a piece of bread and hold it in your hand. This is bread for the journey. Before you eat it, think of the ways that God has fed you and the community over this last week. Think of how God has shown up in your life and in the lives of others. Take a moment to thank God for nourishing you. As you eat the bread, pray for those who don't have enough to eat, that God would feed them too and that we might be part of the way God answers those prayers.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we journey with Jesus to the cross, we pray:

**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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #325 *Canticle of the Turning*



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; created for beloved community of God.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *There in God's Garden*

setting by Robert Bucklee Farlee (b. 1950)

MINISTERS	All People of First Lutheran Church
PASTOR	The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
PASTORAL INTERN	Logan McLean Strike
PROGRAM STAFF	Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate Karen Sande, Director of Music Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
MUSICIANS	Aine Miller, Barb LaMaster, Dave LaMaster, Glen Backman and Michael Fuchs, singers
VIDEO TEAM	Shania Krause, David Sproat, Sam Weston
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER	Stacie Curnow

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Evangelical Lutheran Worship texts and hymns ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. From worship supplement *All Creation Sings In God Alone* ©1991 Jacques Berthier, Ateliers et Presses de Taize, admin. G.I.A. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917 and One License #A-729428. CCS WorshipCast streaming License #13132.



Please join us for upcoming Wednesday services, livestreamed at 6:00 p.m., followed by zoom conversation "Acting Against Racism" at 6:30 p.m.:

- Wed, Feb. 24 ~ In Community with Creation (Reflection from the Rova family)
- Wed, March 3 ~ In Community with all the Saints (Colleen Birt)
- Wed, March 10 ~ In Community with our Neighbor (Denise Scheer)
- Wed, March 17 ~ In Community with those on the Margins (Cindy Monroe)
- Wed, March 24 ~ In Community with Christ (Brian Peterson & Paul Anderson)

FLC Community Conversations on Racism and Justice - Wednesdays from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Immediately following each service at 6:30 pm will be an FLC community discussion via zoom, using the articles & conversation guide *Acting Against Racism* published by Christian Century. Please join in this important conversation as we learn and grow together!

The Zoom discussion group begins following the service at 6:30 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88382398856?pwd=SkE4RkFJa1FPQ1lrVUtIRXJPdlkxZz09>

Link to the *Acting Against Racism* document: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrYOqNXABKJFrvnNJ-rZljjr5mKEwwBl/view?usp=sharing>

Article Reading & Discussion schedule

Feb 17 - "Becoming less defensive about White privilege"

Feb. 24 - "James Baldwin reminds us not to be surprised by this"

March 3 - "I believe racism is wrong. So what?"

March 10 - "How do we know Black lives matter to God?"

March 17 - "Why are so many White Americans standing up for racial justice?"

March 24 - "Wearing down structural evil with the ministry of erosion"

*The Sanctuary is open for quiet prayer and reflection each Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Use the Superior St. entrance door leading directly into the Sanctuary.*

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.

We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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