

MARCH 10TH, 2021 Lent 3

A Lenten Midweek Service by The Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ORDER OF SERVICE

Lent traditionally is a time of repentance and renewal. I like to remind myself of how I have lived my life, I like to think of lent as a time to review our past, our present and how we go into the future. God is generous and it is a time of reflection and what it means to be in relationship with God. In our Lenten observation on these Wednesday evenings, we will concentrate on the five great themes of Luther's Small Catechism for our lessons and sermons. Our service order will be centered around the Ten Commandments as our guide and light to a life in loving response to the Gospel of our Lord.

*P = Presiding Minister A = Assisting Minister C =
Congregation*

PRELUDE

PRAYER FOR LENT:

P: Come and let us walk in the light of the Lord. And he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths.

A: Show your servants your works, O Lord;

C: And their children your glory.

A: Let your merciful kindness be upon us,

C: As we put our trust in you.

A: Not to us, O Lord, not to us,

C: But to your name be the praise.

A: Lord, hear our prayer,

C: And let our cry come to you.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: God of Glory and might, speak to us with your wisdom, that we might truly hear you. Display your majesty, that we might truly see you.

Transform the chaos of our lives with the clarity of your call, That we might worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen

EXHORTATION:

P: Brothers and sisters: We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love --the discipline of Lent -- help us to wage our spiritual warfare.

Let us therefore turn to the Word of God this night.

For the Word of God contains the Law and the Gospel and is the light before our eyes. The Gospel is God's gracious promise to us as his beloved children. It shows us all that He has done for us,

in Israel and in Jesus Christ,

for the forgiveness of sins and for newness of life.

Christ makes us his own and heirs of his kingdom.

The Law, on the other hand, represents what God expects of us in the response of our lives as we live in loving service to his will.

C: The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart. The commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to our

eyes.

Please stand as you are able:

THE DECALOGUE:

P: God spoke these words, and said: I am the Lord your God.
You shall have no other gods,

C: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.

P: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

C: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.

P: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

C: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.

P: Honor your father and mother.

C: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.

P: You shall not kill.

C: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.

P: You shall not commit adultery.

C: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.

P: You shall not steal.

C: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.

P: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

C: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.

P: You shall not covet.

C: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.

THE LAW OF LOVE

P: Jesus summarized the Decalogue/ Ten Commandments into two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it; You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

C: The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart. The commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to our eyes.

PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made us your own. You forgave us all our sins and brought us to newness of life. Continue to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in us your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,

C: Amen

Sit

THE LESSONS

James 5:13-18,

¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence follows each reading.

Matthew 6:1-13

Concerning Almsgiving

6 “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

Concerning Prayer

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[b]

⁷“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹“Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.^[c]

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us to the time of trial,^[d]
but rescue us from the evil one.^[e]

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence follows each reading.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

C: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

P: You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

P: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

C: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

HYMN ELW 592 "Just As I Am"

THE GREAT LITANY ELW #238 responsively

Please stand as you are able

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, hear us.

In mercy hear us.

God, the Father in heaven,

have mercy on us.

God, the Son, redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit,

have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,

have mercy on us.

Be gracious to us.

Spare us, good Lord.

Be gracious to us.

Spare us, good Lord.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
from the cunning assaults of the devil;
from an unprepared and evil death:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From war, bloodshed, and violence;
from corrupt and unjust government;
from sedition and treason:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From epidemic, drought, and famine;
from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning, and storm:
and from everlasting death:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your incarnation;
by your holy birth:

Help us, good Lord.

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by your agony and bloody sweat;
by your cross and suffering;
by your death and burial:

Help us, good Lord.

By your resurrection and ascension;
by the gift of the Holy Spirit:

Help us, good Lord.

In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

Save us, good Lord.

Though unworthy, we implore you
to hear us, Lord our God.

To rule and govern your holy catholic church;
to guide all servants of your church
in the love of your word and in holiness of life;
to put an end to all schisms
and causes of offense to those who would believe;
and to bring into the way of truth all who have gone astray:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful workers into your harvest;
to accompany your word with y

our Spirit and power;
to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand;
and to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To give to all nations justice and peace;
to preserve our country from discord and strife;
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;
and to bless and guide all our people:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;
to protect and guide all who travel;
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;
to watch over children and to guide the young;
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;
to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows;

and to have mercy on all your people:

We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,
and to reconcile us to them;

to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures
of the earth, the sea, and the air;

and graciously to hear our prayers:

We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

we implore you to hear us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

give us peace. Amen.

O Christ, hear us.

In mercy hear us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you gave your only Son to be a life to redeem us, an example to follow, the word for our rule, the grace for our guide, the lamb on the cross for the sins of our souls. Send your Spirit to enter into us and take possession of our hearts, and dwell with us forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your be, 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Sit

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

It is easy to offer our money and our gold, but God desires our hearts and our lives. Even as we offer our gifts in the offering plates this day, let us reflect on how we might give our hearts and lives so that others may know the truth of God's wisdom and love.

Offertory Hymn: ELW 324 "In the Cross I Glory"

Offering prayer: ALL

May the gifts we bring be gifts of love.

May the offerings we share be offerings of our hearts

May each gift be blessed by your grace,

That others may know the truth of your wisdom

And your love. Amen

SERMON – The Lord's Prayer

CLOSING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. Lord, we thank you that you have taught us what you would have us believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep your Word in pure hearts, that

we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and in death.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

Blessed by God's wisdom,

We go forth refreshed and renewed

Called by Christ,

We go now to serve,

Amazed by God's love,

We go now to love.

Almighty God, Father †Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: ELW 772 "Oh, that the Lord Would Guide my Ways"

GO IN PEACE, REMEMBER THE POOR! THANKS BE TO GOD!