

The Third Sunday in Lent, year B

March 7, 2021 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: The Third Sunday in Lent, year B

God's ways are not our ways. The Bible is clear on that. Moses brings the Ten Commandments to the people, a gift from God, but we would rather do things our own way. The Son of God overturns the tables of the Temple moneychangers, throwing them out of God's house. Human need for commerce and wealth had invaded the center of the Jewish faith, the Temple. God's ways are different. God's way to heal all things and bring life was to go to the cross: foolishness and a stumbling block to us, Paul says. So: if God's ways aren't our ways, whose way will we follow?

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The link is embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the link in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: "If Ye Love Me" Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)
Recorded by singers of the Cantorei on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

HYMN: ELW 238, "The Great Litany"
Sung at Mount Olive on the First Sunday in Lent, year C, February 14, 2016. John Gidmark and the Mount Olive Children's Choir, leaders.

Word

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

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

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17; reader – Lora Dundek, lector

¹ Then God spoke all these words: ² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You 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. ⁵ You 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 that 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.

PSALMODY: Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory 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 revives the soul; * the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

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

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures 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 servant 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.

Sung at Mount Olive on the Third Sunday in Lent, year B, March 4, 2018.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; reader – Vicar Andrea Bonneville, assisting minister

Paul writes: 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, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Return to the Lord"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Second Sunday in Lent, year A, March 16, 2014.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover 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 authorities 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." ²⁰They said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But Jesus 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.

SERMON

God's Home

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Silence for reflection.

HYMN: ELW 757, "All My Hope on God Is Founded"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 14 A, July 9, 2017.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Vicar Andrea Bonneville, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 723, "Canticle of the Turning"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 33 B, November 15, 2015.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☞ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Prelude and Fugue in c minor, BWV 549

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Recorded on Wednesday, March 3, 2021; Cantor David Cherwien, organist.



In Our Prayers

- *Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Evelyn Royce; Julia Adams; Elizabeth Beissel, Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; James Wilkes; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, relative of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Lynn Kernkamp, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Bob Adamson, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; Nicole Sanders, Ann Clark, friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Ellen Katsoulis, friend of Carol Martinson; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Kathryn Glick, aunt/godmother of Kathy Thurston and Steve Swanson, friend of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbeshier Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Peg Boyle, mother of Amy Thompson; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilke, Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy Bonnes and family, Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.*
- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Merwyn Larson, Mark Ruff, Thomas Graves, Anders Amala, Brian Burmeister, and Martha Hamlin.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.
- **We remember the saints who have gone before us:**
March 7: St. Perpetua and St. Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202 – Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and her slave Felicity, 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.

March 10: *Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society* – 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.

March 12: *St. Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604* – 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.