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Liturgy: Pastor Marcis
Sermon: Vicar Ramthun
Organist: Evelyn Orth

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

God's Wisdom

March 7, 2021 – 10:45 AM



AS WE GATHER

When the Israelites were encamped by Mount Sinai, just out of slavery in Egypt and far from the Promised Land, God wisely gave them the Ten Commandments. They are engraved in our historic churches and capitol buildings. Their perfect demands require a Savior for us. Jesus was so jealous for God's Law that He cleansed the temple before cleansing us of our sin by giving the temple of His body. In His wisdom, God did what we could not: He kept His own Law for us and then chose us to be the Body of Christ today. None of us has kept the commandments; we and our spiritual ancestors reflect our weaknesses in faith and action. But in the process, God's wisdom shows forth: When we are weak, He is strong. Today is a day to boast about God's grace and His Son, Christ crucified, the power and wisdom of God.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

HYMN

"Beautiful Savior" *LSB 537*

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

INVOCATION

Vicar: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Vicar: Today's Psalm, Psalm 19, informs our preparation for worship this morning. First, it celebrates the glory of God's creation.

PSALM

Psalm 19

Vicar: The heavens declare the glory of God,

People: and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

Vicar: Day to day pours out speech,

People: and night to night reveals knowledge.

Vicar: There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

**People: Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

Vicar: In them He has set a tent for the sun,

**People: which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**

Vicar: Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,

People: and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Vicar: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Vicar: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Vicar: the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;

People: the just decrees of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

Vicar: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

People: sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Vicar: Moreover, by them is Your servant warned;

People: in keeping them there is great reward.

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Psalm 19:12–14

Vicar: When we use the Ten Commandments and other parts of the moral code as a mirror, we see that we have fallen from the perfection of God's good creation and His perfect Law.
Who can discern his errors?

People: Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

Vicar: Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;

People: let them not have dominion over me!

Vicar: Our gracious Lord has promised full and free forgiveness to all who call out to our heavenly Father in His name. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

**People: O God, we confess that we have sinned against You and one another in our thinking,
speaking, and acting. Worse, in our fallen nature, we are sinful and unclean, and in the
eyes of many we are weak, lowly people. But because You have graciously chosen us
and worked faith in our hearts, we humbly ask for mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus
Christ. Forgive, renew, and lead us in paths of righteousness.**

Vicar: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Vicar: Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

People: **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

✂ WORD ✂

SALUTATION

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy,

People: **be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word;**

Vicar: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 20:1–17

(The Ten Commandments)

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

Vicar: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

People: **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

Vicar: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

People: **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

(The foolish wisdom of God)

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where 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? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the

foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

John 2:19

Vicar: Destroy this temple,

People: and in three days I will raise it up.

Vicar: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:13–25

(Jesus Cleanses the Temple)

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore 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. Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" *LSB 575*

**1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain**

**ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain**

**3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain**

- 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain**

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SERMON

**“The Power of the Cross”
1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” *LSB* 425

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Vicar: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Take My Life and Let It Be” *LSB* 784

- 1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

- 2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

People: 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.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

Vicar: May God almighty—the Father who created all that exists; the Son, by whose death we have life; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in our hearts that we may boast only in the Lord—
bless you and keep you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Vicar: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” *LSB 427*

- 1 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.**

- 2 When the woes of life o’ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.**

- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.**

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