

Order of Service: The Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

Prelude *Paso in D minor*

Narciso Casanovas
Dr. Gukhui Han

A Penitential Order

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation.
People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Invitation to Confession

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession and Absolution *(Please remain muted and join in praying together)*

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Hymn *Glorious things of thee are spoken*
(Mute your device and sing loudly and joyfully)

Austria



1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty
2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and
4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -



of our God; he whose word can - not be
ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and
fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a
deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -



bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.



on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and
'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to



sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the
shade by day, safe they feed up - on the
reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn



round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.
man - na which he gives them when they pray.
prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

Collect of the Day *(people muted)*

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading *Exodus 20:1-17 (people muted)*

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

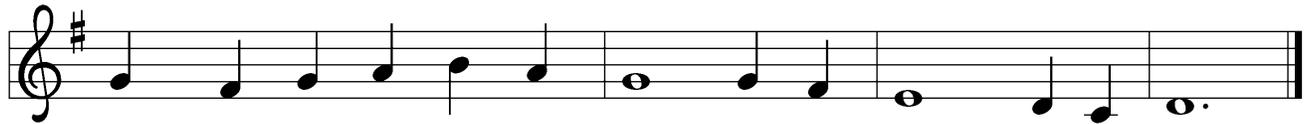
God spoke all these words to Moses on Mount Sinai: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 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, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and 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; 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. For 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. Honor your father and your mother, so 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 male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

RERAIN



The stat - utes of the LORD are just and re - joice the heart; the com -



mand - ment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
 One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.
 Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
 their 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.
 It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
 It 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.

RERAIN

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul,
 the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
 The statues of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
 the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
 the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
 sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

RERAIN

By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
 Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.
 Above 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.
 Let the words of my heart and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
 O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

REFRAIN

A Reading *1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (people muted)*

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

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. 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, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *As the Deer*

Martin Nystrom arr. Lloyd Larson

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.

You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

The Gospel *John 2:13-22 (people muted)*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making 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. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After 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, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon (*people muted*)

The Rev. Jon Niketh

Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Lynn, MA & composer of liturgical resources

Silence follows the sermon.

Music *Sonata I BWV 1014, Adagio*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Emma McAllister (Violin) & Dr. Gukhui Han (Piano)

Nicene Creed (*Please remain muted and join in praying together*)

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Anthem *Betrachte, meine Seel (From St. John's Passion)*

J.S. Bach

Malek Sammour, Soloist

*Betrachte, meine Seel,
mit ängstlichem Vergnügen,
Mit bitterer Lust
und halb beklemmtem Herzen
Dein höchstes Gut in Jesu Schmerzen,
Wie dir auf Dornen, so ihn stechen,
Die Himmelschlüsselblumen blühn!
Du kannst viel süße Frucht
von seiner Wermut brechen
Drum sieh ohn Unterlass auf ihn!*

Observe, my soul,
with fearful joy,
With bitter delight
and half-oppressed heart,
Your highest good in Jesus' pain;
How for you, on the thorns that pierce Him,
The keys to heaven bloom like flowers!
You can pluck sweetest fruit
from His wormwood.
So fix your gaze always on him.

Prayers of the People *(Please remain muted and join in praying together)*

Let us pray to God, who leads the lost and calls sinners home.

We pray for creation, that the damage done to land, water, and sky may cease and the Spirit renew the earth. Pray for creation.

(Please offer your prayers for creation.)

Return to the Lord, **Who leads us through the wilderness.**

We pray for the world, that all may be safe from oppression, discrimination, famine, and war. Pray for the world.

(Please offer your prayers for the world.)

Return to the Lord, **Who leads us through the wilderness.**

We pray for the Church, that it may reconcile the wounded, gather wanderers, and guide pilgrims to You. Pray for the Church.

(Please offer your prayers for the Church.)

Return to the Lord, **Who leads us through the wilderness.**

We pray for St. Luke's, that we will be an example of stewardship, justice, mercy, and love. Pray for this church.

(Please offer your prayers for the parish.)

Return to the Lord, **Who leads us through the wilderness.**

We pray for those whose souls thirst for You in the watches of the night, that You will keep them safe in the shadow of your wings. Pray for those who suffer.

(Please offer your prayers for those who suffer.)

Return to the Lord, **Who leads us through the wilderness.**

We pray for those who have died, that they may rest in You; and for those who mourn, that You will caress their hearts with compassion. Pray for the departed and those who mourn.

(Please offer your prayers for the dead and those who mourn.)

Return to the Lord, **Who leads us home.**

Presider Gracious God, we have wandered far from Your presence; lead us back through the wilderness, that we may return to You and make Your heart our home. **Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to God.

Offertory Anthem *How Great Thou Art*

Video – *In You Alone*

The Work of the People

Litany of Commitment *(Please unmute yourself to join in the responses.)*

This Lent, how might you commit to opening yourself to the life-transforming love of God?

As we live into Lent in the midst of our pandemic wilderness world, God's invitation is for us to experience the life-transforming love of God. How might we open our hands, eyes, ears, hearts, and lives to God whose Kingdom has come near?

God, as you placed the rainbow in the sky you declared: "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations." You pledged to protect us and all creation for all time.

May we trust in your presence and promise. **We commit to seeking your Kingdom.**

God, as you made your covenant with Abraham and Sarah, you declared: "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you." You pledged to make our lives abundant as we follow you.

May we trust in your presence and promise. **We commit to seeking your Kingdom.**

God, as you brought your people out of slavery in Egypt, you challenged us to live faithfully loving you, our neighbors, and ourselves. You pledged your love and faithfulness to us.

May we trust in your presence and promise. **We commit to seeking your Kingdom.**

God, as we wandered in the wilderness straying from your ways, you called us back to you giving us our daily bread and forgiving our sins. You pledged your mercy and grace to us even when we turn from you.

May we trust in your presence and promise. **We commit to seeking your Kingdom.**

God, as you sent your prophets to call us back to the covenant, you promise to put your law within us, and write it on our hearts. You pledged to be our God, and claim us as your people.

May we trust in your presence and promise. **We commit to seeking your Kingdom.**

Lord's Prayer *(Please unmute and join in praying together)*

**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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Anthem *And Can It Be?*

Dan Forrest

And can it be? and can it be?
Amazing love, o how can it be?
And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain?
For me who Him to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

And can it be? And can it be?
Amazing love, how can it be?

No condemnation now I dread,
Jesus and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothes in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown through Christ my own.

Amazing love, how can it be
That Thou, my God shouldst die for me?
Amazing love, how can it be?
Amazing love!

Special prayers, celebrations, and birthdays

The Blessing

Bow down before the Lord.

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. And, the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Sprit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Give me Jesus*

John R. Sweney arr. David McDonald
Dr. Gukhui Han