

Trinity Lutheran Church

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E-Mail: washing54@gmail.com**Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.****Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.****President:** Mr. Edwin Peeples**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT****March 20, 2022**

If It Should Bear Fruit

As We Gather

How then shall we live? What a profound question for Christians to consider midway through Lent! The Lord has shown His mercy to us, forgiven our sins, and delivered us from death. Then what? What is the focus of our lives? The call of the Readings for this Sunday points us to the repentance that bears the good fruit of God's kingdom. Like trees that have failed to produce good fruit, the Lord has tended us with His Word, with the warning of the Law and the promise of the Gospel. But if the tree remains unfruitful, the tree will have to be cut down. It is a hard word to hear, but God remains merciful, and most of all, He seeks that we bear the good fruits of faith and repentance in our daily lives.

PREPARATION**Hymn: "Power in the Blood"**

1 Would you be free from the burden of sin?

There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.

Would you o'er evil a victory win?

There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

Refrain:

There is pow'r, pow'er, wonder-working pow'r

In the blood of the Lamb;

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r

In the precious blood of the Lamb.

2 Would you be free from your passion and pride?

There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.

Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide.

There's wonderful pow'r in the blood. [Refrain]

3 Would you do service for Jesus your king?
 There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.
 Would you live daily his praises to sing?
 There's wonderful pow'r in the blood. [Refrain]

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 1:6; 5:4, 7, adapt.

P The LORD knows the way of the righteous,
C but the way of the wicked will perish.

P You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with You.
C Through the abundance of Your steadfast love, I will enter Your house.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father:
C Almighty God, maker of all things and judge of all people, we poor sinners confess to You that we have turned away from You. We have not done the good You desire but have done the evil You forbid. We repent of all our sins of thought, word, and deed and pray for Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Turn our hearts away from sin and its temptation and grant us by the Holy Spirit to serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. To the impenitent and unbelieving I declare that so long as you continue in your impenitence, God will not forgive your sins and will visit your iniquity upon you until you turn from your sinful ways, come to repentance, and trust in the merits of Jesus Christ alone.

C Amen.

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

WORD

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Announcement of the Day

P Though the Readings for the Third Sunday in Lent bring warnings to those who refuse the Spirit and remain impenitent, they also promise that God will work in us the healthful Spirit of His grace, forgive our sins, and equip us to bear the good fruits of His kingdom in our lives. From the prophet Ezekiel, we learn that God finds no pleasure in judging the wicked but rejoices in their repentance and faith. From 1 Corinthians, we are warned by Paul against the pride that goes before the fall and assured that in Christ temptation cannot overcome us. In the Gospel, Jesus is confronted with a tragedy from the news and points the hearers to their own repentance and faith, that they may bear the good fruit of His Kingdom.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-20

⁷So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.

⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹²And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the

wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷'Yet your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not just,' when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

⁶And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn: "Have Thine Own Way"

- 1 Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.
- 2 Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Savior today!
Purer than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.
- 3 Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!
- 4 Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!

Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
 Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
 Christ only, always, living in me!

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

P Restore us, O Lord, according to Your promise, and hear the prayers of Your people who cry to You in need.

Blessed Lord, it is Your good and gracious will not to condemn but to save the sinner through the merits of Christ alone. Open our hearts to the voice of Your call, lead us to repentance, and grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may show forth the good fruits of that repentance in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, we live in a world filled with temptation, fear, and threat. Grant us a refuge in Your Word that our hearts may not despair. Deliver us from all our enemies and bring us to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful Lord, the tragedies and disasters of this life unsettle our hearts and feed our anxieties. Remind us of Your great compassion and faithfulness, and support the victims of such events as well as the emergency personnel who imperil themselves on our behalf. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, our world cries out in search of hope; grant to those who preach Your Word the grace to proclaim it faithfully, and bless the missionaries far and near who bring Your Gospel to those who sit in the darkness of sin and death. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, bless us with good and faithful leaders who will hear and heed Your Word. Move us to have compassion on the oppressed, to seek justice for those who suffer wrongly, and to sustain goodness in our life and conduct. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Deliver, O Lord, the sick from their afflictions, the sorrowing from their grief, the troubled in mind from depression, and the dying from fear. Hear us [*especially for . . . and*] for all who cry to You in need. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed Lord, You have given us the comfort of Your Word and the food of Your Son's body and blood that we may be sustained in trial and strengthened in faith. Forgiven by Your mercy, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we show forth in holy lives our Savior, whom we here receive upon our lips. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Additional petitions may be inserted here.

P Holy Lord, all things are Yours and yet You show Your great mercy in giving us all we need for this life and for eternal life. Give us also a grateful heart, so that we may respond with gratitude and return to You the tithes and offerings You are due for all Your kindness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

C Amen.

Offering

SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Distribution Hymn

Communion

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

sts. 1-3

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His piercèd side.
Alleluia!

2 Praise we Him, whose love divine
 Gives His sacred blood for wine,
 Gives His body for the feast—
 Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
 Alleluia!

3 Where the paschal blood is poured,
 Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
 Israel's hosts triumphant go
 Through the wave that drowns the foe.
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.

Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.
 Merciful God, for freedom You have set us free through Christ's liberating death and resurrection. In this freedom, teach us to live in the fruit of the Spirit given us in our Baptism that we may bear in our bodies the fulfillment of the Law as we love our neighbors as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

sts. 1–3

1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,
 Among us with Your grace
 That Satan may not harm us
 Nor we to sin give place.

2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,
 Among us with Your Word,
 And thus now and hereafter
 True peace and joy afford.

- 3 Abide with heav'nly brightness
 Among us, precious Light;
 Your truth direct and keep us
 From error's gloomy night.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Text: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME – A warm welcome to everyone! If you are our GUEST, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. **BLESSINGS!**

DISTRICT CONVENTION – The 76th Convention of the LCMS Southern District will take place in Slidell, LA on this week March 21-23, 2022. Let's keep this Convention lifted high. Our very own, Rev. Dr. McNair Ramsey, will take part in the Keynote Panel discussion for the Convention. **Praise Ye the Lord!**

SENIOR DAY OUT – Our Senior Day Out will resume on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 10 a.m. This is also Maundy Thursday.

CONGRATULATIONS – We have 3 members of our Congregation whose recent accomplishments we should proudly acknowledge and congratulate. 1) Ms. Courtney Washington has been appointed to the Board for the Arts Revive Organization. 2) Mrs. Debra McDaniel has been elected President of the Central Alabama Zone of LWML. 3) Mr. Shawn Washington recently received the "Commitment to the School and Academic Success of Students" Award from Jackson Steele Elementary School. **Congratulations to you all!**

SCHEDULE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY/LENT/HOLY WEEK/EASTER

Ash Wednesday starts the season of Lent. As we continue to live cautiously in the midst of Covid, here is our schedule for this Lenten season with that awareness.

- 1) On each Wednesday in Lent you are invited out for meditation and Communion between Noon and 1 p.m. On Holy Week, Communion will not take place on that Wednesday but on that Maundy Thursday same time.
- 2) We will omit the Holy Saturday hot dog give-a-way, one of our favorite activities, for obvious reasons.
- 3) Easter Sunday, which is usually our busiest day of the year will have just the one activity, a 6 a.m. Sunrise Easter Service with Holy Communion.
- 4) The omission of some of our beloved activities including no Mid-week night Services, no hot dog outreach event, no Easter morning breakfast, no Children's Easter Program, no Easter egg hunt are all excluded in an effort to be as safe as possible in our current situation. Thanks for your patience and understanding and let's pray that we'll have a normal experience on next year.

BULLETIN/NEWSLETTER – If anyone has news or information for the bulletin and/or newsletter, please email the information to Mrs. Veazey at dorothyveazey@outlook.com. Information for the bulletin should be submitted or emailed by Friday of each week.

VIRTUAL SERVICES – Worship services will now be available via Zoom for those of you that are unable to attend the in-person worship services. The following link will be used for every service: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87066538071>. The meeting ID is 870 6653 8071. The bulletin for every worship service will be available on the church's website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER HOUR – Please join us each Saturday @ 11 a.m. for prayer. Dial 1/681-999-0264; Access Code 391959#. Also, I invite you to go on our website and view our monthly newsletters and other information. On there you will also see a complete listing of prayer requests/concerns.

VERSE OF THE WEEK – Each week there will be a different verse in the bulletin. Members are encouraged to memorize and meditate on the verses.

VERSE OF THE WEEK – II Chronicles 16:9 (N L T)

“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him”

“Happy Birthday”

March 16th Gabriel Buster

March 24th Jada Matthews

“Happy Anniversary”

March 22nd Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Malvina Harrison

March 22nd Mr. & Mrs. Corey & Skye Washington

March 25th Mr. & Mrs. Alphonso & Vickie Fails

FIRST DAY OF SPRING – Today, March 20, 2022
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The Annunciation of Our Lord (March 25): What startling, surprising news it must have been for Mary, heavenly Father, to hear that the Savior of the world would dwell in her. You are still at work in our world in surprising and startling ways. May we respond faithfully, as she did, with humility and purpose and overflowing joy, as You choose to dwell in us through Baptism and in Your Word. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen!**

-Portals of Prayer/January-March, 2022