

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



March 3, 2024-Third Sunday of Lent

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community.”

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**Welcome to Worship this morning!**

**To receive Holy Communion, you may come to the front and receive the bread and wine or grape juice, you may ask an usher to have the pastor bring the elements to you in the pew, or you may pick up the cup/wafer in the narthex before the service and commune yourself at your seat.**

**Reminder: We are videoing “live”.**

**If you need a hearing device, they are on the usher’s table.**



The third covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the central one of Israel’s history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God’s liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

**Prelude**

**Pat Anderson**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Ringing of the Bells, Lighting of Candles**

**Opening Song “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

**Red Worship Book #324**

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

P: Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## Greeting

Red Worship Book p. 203

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## Kyrie

Red Worship Book p. 203

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts!

## Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book p. 204

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth: we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heaven above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: **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.**

## Children's Time

Pastor James Gerth

### First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Carole Lahti

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is

giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>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.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>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? <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Red Worship Book p. 205**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: John 2:13-22**

**Pastor James Gerth**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>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.

P: This is the Gospel of Our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

**Pastor James Gerth**

## **Hymn “Canticle of the Turning” (vs. 1, 2, &4)**

**Red Worship Book #723**

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

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## **Prayers of God's People**

### **Psalm 19**

P: The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**C: One day tells its tale to another,**

**and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

P: Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

**C: 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.**

P: It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**C: 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.**

P: The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

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

P: The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**C: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

P: By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**C: Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

P: 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.

**C: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

P: You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land (*regions in conflict may be named*). Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family (*especially*). We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **Offering/Hymns**

**“Change My Heart, O God” (sing 2 times)**

**Red Worship Book #801**

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953

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## **Offering Prayer**

P: Let us pray,

**C: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.**

**We pray this in your name. Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Red Worship Book p. 208**

**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.**

## **Distribution of Holy Communion**

### **Communion Hymns**

#### **“How Great Thou Art”**

**Red Worship Book #856**

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989.

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#### **“Come to the Table” (sing 2 times)**

**Red Worship Book #481**

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Text © 1991 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP).

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## **Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**C: Amen.**

## **Blessing**

P: Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **Closing Song**

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

**Red Worship Book #803**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Thank you to Pastor James Gerth for preaching today.

Thank You

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.



\*The Noisy Offering" for March: "Food Shelf", there will be a bowl as you exit the church.

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### Announcements/Calendar

**Sun.** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC/Pastor James Gerth.

**Tues.** 9:30 am Women's Bible Study; 5-6 pm Community Meal.

**Wed.** 11 am Staff mtg.; 4:30 pm Youth Choir; 5-6:30 pm FiA; 5:30-6 pm Confirmation eats; 6 pm Confirmation with mentors; 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer Worship; 7:30 pm Youth Group.

**Thurs.** 7 am Men's Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Men's Text Study.

**Sat.** 8 pm AA mtg.

**Sun.** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship 9:30 am Worship/HC/Bells.



**Prayer Concerns and Sympathy** ~ Craig Moline (son of Sharol Huggett), John Seegebarth, David Shober, Larry Edin, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Lana Jensen, Judy Smith and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeney).

**For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.**

**For world peace. For our companion synods.**

**For our missionaries:** Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke.



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Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have been designated Choice Dollars have until March 31, 2024, to direct any remaining 2023 Choice Dollars.

Let Kathy Thompson know where you want the money to go, that way she has your verification of where it should go.

Help support First Lutheran.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836





We have 6 red chairs and 1 gray chair looking for a new home, if interested contact Elaine Jensen.  
320-761-5272



Community Meal Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 pm.  
(Meal prepared and served by Jensen family.)



Women on a Mission and the Faith Community Nurse will be collecting donations of any unwanted or unused medical supplies for Global Health.

Crutches, slings, dressings, walkers, canes etc.

**NO MEDICATIONS!!** Drop off at the Church and put in Women on a Mission closet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



**RESCHEDULED ALL-CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY  
BY EVANGELISM/STEWARDSHIP BOARD  
SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 24, 2024**

No, it's not First Lutheran's birthday It's a celebration of all our birthdays!

There will be food, fellowship and fun, Chili, cornbread, Cake and candles and

Happy Birthday wishes to all.

Everyone is invited, from infants to centenarians.

**It's not a potluck, but we need a few volunteers...**

*More about that later!*

Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> following worship.