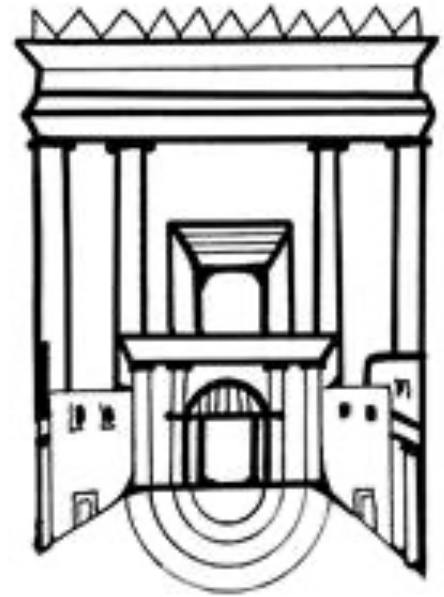


Sunday, March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent,
Year B



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Wilmington DE
Leader Pages

GATHERING

Prelude - *Cantor*

Confession and Forgiveness - *Presiding Minister*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.
Amen

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.
Amen.

Gathering Song - ELW 343 Vs. 1 & 4

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The vocal line is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The piano accompaniment is written on two staves (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are as follows:

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es -
4 We cry out; we will have our dear Lord made a -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to

be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my
 know. But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who
 king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet cheer - ful he to suf - f'ring goes that

Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home
 my Lord on earth might have;
 in death no friendly tomb
 but what a stranger gave.
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—
 no story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
 I all my days could gladly spend!

Greeting - *Presiding Minister*

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 - *Assistant Minister*

Let us pray.

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.**

Kyrie - *Kyrie Setting 5*

Canticle of Praise - *Glory to God Setting 5*

WORD

First Reading (Exodus 20:1-17) - *Lector*

A reading from Exodus.

1God spoke all these words:

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

4You 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. 5You 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 his 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm - 19

1The heavens declare the glo- | ry 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 re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to | the
simple.

8The statutes of the Lord are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light | to
the eyes.

9The fear of the Lord is clean and en- | dures 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 ser- | vant 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.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:18-25) - Lector

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

18The 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, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - Lenten Acclamation Setting 5

Gospel (John 2:13-22) - Preacher

The Holy Gospel According to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

13The Passover of the Jews 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 Jews 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.” 20The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21But he 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.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon - Pastor Jason

Hymn of the Day - *ELW 322 (Vs. 1-3)*



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

Creed - Lector

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

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.**

Prayers of Intercession - *Lector*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Offering Song - *ELW 336 - Cantor*

Offering Prayer - *Assistant Minister*

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love,
you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together
with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us
the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may
become the way of Christ, through whom we pray.

Amen.

Dialogue & Thanksgiving - *Presiding Minister*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide, by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs, and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness. For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert, calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness, and walking with us into newness of life.

For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.

We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit, that strengthened by your Word, we may care for others and for the world you made, and work for justice and peace for all.

For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,
Holy God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit we pray as Jesus taught:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing - *Presiding Minister*

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

Dismissal - *Assistant Minister*

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude - *Cantor*