

# **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Saturday, March 6, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**4101 Washington Street NE**

**Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

**+ CONNECT +**

## **INVOCATION:**

**L:** Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## **OPENING PRAISE: Psalm 19**

**L:** The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**C:** **Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.**

**L:** They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

**C:** **Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

**L:** In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

**C:** **It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**

**L:** It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;

**C:** **Nothing is deprived of its warmth.**

**ALL:** **The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

## **“When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

**When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries:**

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**When evening shadows fall, This rings my curfew call: May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs:**

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**God’s holy house of prayer, Has none that can compare With “Jesus Christ be praised!”**

**To him, my highest and best, I sing when love-possessed:**

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Whate’er my hands begin, This blessing shall break in: May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**No lovelier antiphon, In all high heav’n is known**

**Than “Jesus Christ be praised!”**

**There to th’eternal Word, Th’eternal psalm is heard: Oh, Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let all of humankind, In this their concord find:**

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let all the earth around, Ring joyous with the sound: May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Sing, sun and stars of space, Sing, all who see his face,  
Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's whole creation o'er, Today and evermore Shall Jesus Christ be praised!**

L: The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.

**C: The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.**

L: The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.

**C: The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**

L: The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.

**C: The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.**

L: They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

**C: They are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.**

**"More Precious Than Silver"**

**Lord, You are more precious than silver,**

**Lord, You are more costly than gold.**

**Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds,**

**And nothing I desire compares with You. (Repeat song)**

*("More Precious than Silver" by Lynn DeShazo, copyright 1982 Intergity's Hosanna Music, CCLI License #921494.)*

L: By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**C: But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.**

L: Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

**C: Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.**

**ALL: May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,  
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

**CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

L: Psalm 19 reminds us that creation declares God's glory in its own way. We too have been called to declare God's glory in our own way. The psalm also reminds us that God's laws are precious to us. Jesus clarified that for us by summarizing all of God's law as Love God and Love neighbor. We declare God's glory by loving Him and loving our neighbor. We need to confess that we have fallen short of that and need forgiveness. *(Time of silence for personal confession)...* O Merciful God,

**C: We have sinned against you and against our neighbor by our lack of love. We have failed to declare your glory in our words and actions. Our hearts are full of things that you never intended. As Jesus cleaned out the temple and got rid of things you never intended to be there, cleanse our hearts, forgive us, renew us, and fill us that we might declare your glory through lives of love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

P: May these words of my mouth

**C: And this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **O Holy God, as we walk this Lenten way, empty us of all that you don't want in us. Cleanse us from all that stains our souls. Drive out anything in us that is getting in your way. Make us the people you are calling us to be. Put missionary zeal in our timid hearts so that we are known by love, live by faith, and are a voice of hope. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 20:1-17

L: And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

C: **You shall have no other gods before me.**

L: You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

C: **You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God,**

L: For the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

C: **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

L: 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, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

C: **Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."**

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### EPISTLE LESSON: I Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message of 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; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the

wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

L: The Word of the Lord.  
 C: **Thanks be to God!**

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter two.  
 C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.  
 C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

**MEDLEY: “Purify My Heart” & “He Who Began a Good Work in You”**

**CHORUS**

D A/C# Bm D/F#  
 Pu - ri - fy my heart,

5 G D/F# Gmaj7 A7/G Em7  
 Touch me with Your cleans - ing fire. Take me

10 A/C# Bm D/A G D/F#  
 to the cross; Your ho - li - ness is my de -

15 G Asus A D A/C#  
 sire. Breathe Your life in

20 G/B D/A G D/F# Em7  
 me, \_\_\_\_\_ Kin - dle a love that flows from Your \_\_\_\_\_

25 Asus A D/F# G A F#m G D/F#  
 throne. Oh, pu - ri - fy my heart, \_\_\_\_\_

30 Em7 Asus A D  
 Pu - ri - fy \_\_\_\_\_ my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

*("Purify My Heart" by Jeff Nelson, copyright 1992 Heartservice Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

He who \_\_\_\_\_ be - gan a good work \_\_\_\_\_ in you, \_\_\_\_\_

He who \_\_\_\_\_ be - gan a good work \_\_\_\_\_ in you \_\_\_\_\_

will be faith - ful to com - plete it, \_\_\_\_\_ He'll be faith -

- ful to com - plete it; \_\_\_\_\_ He who start - ed the work \_\_\_\_\_ will be faith -

- ful to com - plete it in you. \_\_\_\_\_

*("He Who Began..." by Jon Mohr, copyright 1987 Birdwing Music/Jonathan Mark Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

**MESSAGE:** "A Little Spring Cleaning" – Pastor Bill Hugo

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.

**+ EMPOWER +**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

**P:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING SONG: “Blessed Assurance”**

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

**REFRAIN: This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission – Christ on the cross, For my salvation He suffered loss,  
Gave up His life and gave up His throne, Purchased and won me, made me His own.**

**REFRAIN:**

**Knowing forgiveness, now I’m at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, trusting His love.**

**REFRAIN:**

**Vict’ry o’er Satan, death, and the grave, O what a joy to know that I’m saved!  
Claiming no merit, works of my own, All glory, praise be to God alone!**

**REFRAIN:**

*(Arr. and new text copyright 2000 Michael Zehnder, all rights reserved; copyright permission applied for.)*

**+ + +**

**Lay Minister: Jim Geslin**