**3rd Sunday**

**in Lent**

 “In the temple He found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And He poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.” *John 2:15-15*

**AS WE GATHER**

The Church has what the world does not want: God’s Law, which always accuses us sinners, and His Gospel, which allows for no boasting on our part. To this day, Jewish leaders teach that God will not demand what we cannot achieve. What a stumbling block, preaching a Messiah who becomes a sacrifice for our failings, both in our actions and our very nature. The polytheistic society of Paul’s day and the secular one of ours both find the Law an encumbrance, preferring to judge by their own standards (or lack of them). What folly, our society believes, to preach a God who chooses people whom everyone knows to be weak. Today is a day for foolish preaching: Christ crucified, the power and wisdom of God.

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 203)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 204)

**HYMN** *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”* (*LSB* 427)

In the cross of Christ I glory, tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.

All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o’ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,

never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,

from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure by the cross are sanctified;

peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 205)

**OLD TESTAMENT** Exodus 20:1-17 *(bulletin insert)*

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 2:13-22 (23-25) *(bulletin insert)*

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 206)

**HYMN** *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”* (*LSB* 425)

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,

my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;

all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet sorrow and love flow mingled down!

Did e’er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a tribute far too small;

love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!

**SERMON *“Rock of Flesh and Wood”***

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 208)

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 208-210)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“The Tree of Life”* (*LSB* 561)

The tree of life with ev’ry good in Eden’s holy orchard stood,

and of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.

Yet in this garden also grew another tree, of which they knew;

its lovely limbs with fruit adorned against whose eating God had warned.

The stillness of that sacred grove was broken, as the serpent strove

with tempting voice Eve to beguile and Adam too by sin defile.

O day of sadness when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death,

its awful poison first displayed within the world so newly made.

What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by His grace:

in sending One from woman’s seed, the One to fill our greatest need—

for on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,

would drink the cup of scorn and dread to crush the ancient serpent’s head!

Now from that tree of Jesus’ shame flows life eternal in His name;

for all who trust and will believe, salvation’s living fruit receive.

And of this fruit so pure and sweet the Lord invites the world to eat,

to find within this cross of wood the tree of life with ev’ry good.

**NUNC DIMITTIS** *“Song of Simeon”*(*LSB*, pg. 211)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*LSB*, pg. 212)

### BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION (LSB, pg. 212)

**HYMN** *“Built on the Rock”* (*LSB* 645)

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand even when steeples are falling.

Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land; bells still are chiming and calling,

calling the young and old to rest, but above all the souls distressed,

longing for rest everlasting.

Surely in temples made with hands God, the Most High, is not dwelling;

high above earth His temple stands, all earthly temples excelling.

Yet He who dwells in heav’n above chooses to live with us in love,

making our bodies His temple.

We are God’s house of living stones, built for His own habitation.

He through baptismal grace us owns heirs of His wondrous salvation.

Were we but two His name to tell, yet He would deign with us to dwell

with all His grace and His favor.

Here stands the font before our eyes, telling how God has received us.

The\_altar recalls Christ’s sacrifice and what His Supper here gives us.

Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim Christ yesterday, today, the same,

and evermore, our Redeemer.

Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, that, when the church bells are ringing,

many in saving faith may come where Christ His message is bringing:

“I know My own; My own know Me. You, not the world, My face shall see.

My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

Rev. Curt Hoover, Rev. Alebachew Teshome,

Rev. Craig Fiebiger, Rev. Doug DeWitt

2640 Buckner Road, Thompson’s Station, TN 37179, (615) 791-1880

[www.faithlutheran-tn.org](http://www.faithlutheran-tn.org)

 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**