



WELCOME TO
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Passion 3

March 8, 2015

Jesus answered and said to them,
“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Jn 2:19

A Service of the Word

TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book
(If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

Preservice Devotion: Prayer for Humility #70, forepart of TLH p.109

OPENING HYMN

TLH 390

Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast Blest

INVOCATION AND ABSOLUTION

Matthew 28:19; 1 John 1:5b-2

Minister (M) In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C, spoken) Amen.

M God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

M If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

M Let us pray.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us.

Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

M Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for our only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

M In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

♪ Sing (w intro, TLH 146:3):

Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer,
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

M The Lord be with you.

Luke 1:28

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

M Let us pray, ... one God, now and forever,

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1–17

And God spoke all these words, saying:

- 2 “I *am* the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of *anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, *am* a jealous God,

visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the Lord your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. ¹¹ For *in* six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor’s.”

M This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 19

M The heavens declare the glory of God;

C And the firmament shows His handiwork.

M Day unto day utters speech,

C And night unto night reveals knowledge.

M *There is* no speech nor language

C *Where* their voice is not heard.

M Their line has gone out through all the earth,

C And their words to the end of the world.

M In them He has set

C a tabernacle for the sun,

M Which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,

C And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

M Its rising *is* from one end of heaven,

C And its circuit to the other end;

M And there is nothing hidden

C from its heat.

M The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul;

C The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple;

M The statutes of the Lord *are* right, rejoicing the heart;

C The commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;

M The fear of the Lord *is* clean, enduring forever;

C The judgments of the Lord *are* true and righteous altogether.

M More to be desired *are they* than gold,

C Yea, than much fine gold;

M Sweeter also than honey
C and the honeycomb.
M Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
C And in keeping them *there is* great reward.
M Who can understand *his* errors?
C Cleanse me from secret *faults*.
M Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*;
C Let them not have dominion over me.
M Then I shall be blameless,
C And I shall be innocent of great transgression.
M Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
C Be acceptable in Your sight,
M O Lord, my strength
C and my Redeemer.

GOSPEL LESSON (rise)

M Lord, sanctify us by Your truth;
C Your Word is truth. Amen.

John 2:13–22

¹³ Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. ¹⁵ When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. ¹⁶ And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" ¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "*Zeal for Your house* has eaten Me up."

¹⁸ So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

²⁰ Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"

²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body. ²² Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

M O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

CREED ~ The Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.
From there 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.

HYMN

TLH 175

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

SERMON

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written:

*“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”*

²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

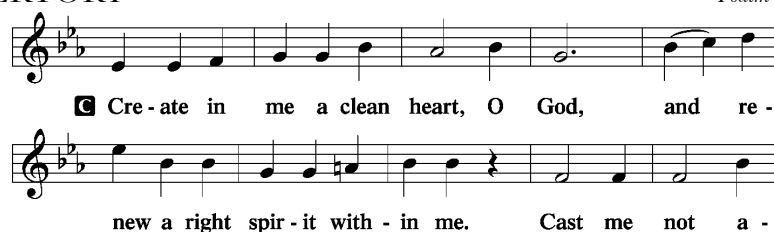
The Word of the Cross is Where God’s Wisdom Finds Expression

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Philippians 4:7

OFFERTORY

Psalms 51:10-12



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



HYMN

TLH 376

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Because our heavenly Father promises to hear our prayers and come to our aid, let us pray for ourselves, our fellow Christians and all people.

Brief silence.

For all the baptized, that the Old Adam in us would be drowned by daily contrition and repentance and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the proclamation of the gospel, that the message of the cross would remain the central and crucial element to all that the Church preaches and teaches and that called preachers of God's Word would proclaim this saving wisdom against all earthly signs and human reasoning, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

For the true wisdom of God to fill our lives, that holding tightly to the seemingly weak and foolish death of Jesus on the cross, we would humbly acknowledge our own weakness and so find reason to boast in salvation which is found in Christ alone, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For zeal for the Gospel and our Father's house, that we passionately care for God's house as our Savior did and boldly speak the saving Word of the cross, and that God would grant us an enduring desire to learn the Scriptures, receive His forgiveness, and worship God in truth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Christian lives, that we lead holy lives because Christ has cleansed our bodies to be God's temples, that we live by God's commandments because He has brought us out of sin's house of slavery, and that all our actions love both God and our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are sick, that our Father grant them peace now, healing according to his will, and thankful hearts always; [and especially for those we have been asked to remember at this altar: _____,] let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the hungry, the homeless, and victims of oppression, that God would sustain them by the bread He provides and also by every word which proceeds from His mouth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who govern in this world, that they would lean not on human wisdom alone to carry out their office, but honor God's commandments and the natural revelation of His law, upholding justice and the good of the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gracious Father, as You have promised, hear the prayers we bring before Your throne of grace through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord in whose name we also pray

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!

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

M The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

WS 769

Lift High the Cross

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Welcome! We wish a warm welcome to our guests this morning. It is our mission to share the good news that God gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him has eternal life (John 3:16-17). May that good news go with you. Feel free to sign our guest book in the entry way. For more information about our church see the visitor comment cards and brochures in the entry way or visit our website at AscensionBatavia.org. We hope to see you again!

Participating in this Service of the Word

Music: S. Libby Lead Usher: G. Libby
Minister: Pastor D. Pfeiffer



Destroy this temple,
and in three days I will raise it up.