

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
Third Sunday in Lent
Lutheran Schools Sunday
March 7, 2021

PRELUDE

Balm in Gilead

Franklin Ashdown

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone.

C Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit, that attentive to Your Word, we may confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Your Son.

P Gracious God, have mercy on us.

C In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT (*from Psalm 19*)

P 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 display knowledge.

P There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

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

P The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

C The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

P 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.

P May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

OPENING HYMN

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;
and should I e'er forget Thy way, restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands – 'tis a delightful road –
nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17

¹Then God 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 servant, 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 servant, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸For 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. 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

P Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,

C so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

P May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give us a spirit of unity among ourselves as we follow Christ Jesus,

C so that with one heart and mouth we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.

C 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. Refrain

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say He died for all. Refrain

SERMON

Rev. Scott Geminn

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.**

THE CHAPEL SCHOOL AWARD

Presented by Principal Michael Schultz to Mrs. Lisa Jones

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Relying on the promises of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

P Almighty God, YAHWEH, holy is Your name. Purify the faith of Your church, that Your people place their trust in nothing beside You. Guide all Your children, that in every situation our words and actions may honor You. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P The heavens declare Your glory. Renew Your creation; protect creatures and crops that are endangered; give us eyes to see the wonder of the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill all leaders with Your ways of peace and mercy. Move those in authority to work for the well-being of the people in their care, especially the most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Give courage to those who are fearful or anxious; give Sabbath rest to all who are weary; and bring relief to all who are suffering. We pray especially for those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You call us into Your presence and make us one in Christ. We give You thanks for this community of faith, and especially for the educational ministry of The Chapel School. Bless our faculty and staff, our students and their families, and all who support our mission to know, live and share the love of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P The cross of Christ shows us Your power to save. Give us joy in the hope of the resurrection and the promise of Your heavenly rest. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to You, faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught 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.

CLOSING HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory/How Great Thou Art
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.

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in –
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
how great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
how great Thou art! How great Thou art!

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and
be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rathbun

Harold DeCou

* * * * *

Special thanks to our additional participants in today's service:

Lectors Katie Vogt, 8th Grade/Social Studies Teacher
Samantha Napiza, 1st Grade Teacher

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708
914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG