

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - MARCH 20, 2022



At times we humans are prone to weighing one sin as greater than another, but Jesus teaches that all sin is disobedience toward God. Sinners are called to repent and turn toward God and away from sin. The parable of the barren fig tree demonstrates God's patience and persistence in this regard, however the judgment will come. Faith requires repentance as God desires for all to seek him and live.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and give thanks to God in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.
- ◆ A personal hearing aid is available if needed. Please ask a Greeter or any member for assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:55AM
WORSHIP: 10AM

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

LBW: DIVINE SERVICE ONE
MUSICIAN - KAREN WARNELL

CALL TO LENTEN REFLECTION

▼ LENTEN QUESTION FOR THE WEEK: AM I BEARING FRUIT FOR GOD?

"For three years I've been coming to look for fruit on this tree and haven't found any. Cut it down!" *(Luke 13:7)*

▼ TIME OF REFLECTION: AM I BEARING THE FRUIT OF A GODLY LIFE? WHAT IS THE FRUIT I AM BEARING?

▲ OPENING HYMN—"WHERE HE LEADS ME" *(Sung; The choir sings the first verse, the congregation joins the rest; CH #593)*

I can hear my Savior calling; I can hear my Savior calling;

I can hear my Savior calling, "Take thy cross and follow, follow Me." *Refrain*

**I'll go with Him thro' the judgment; I'll go with Him thro' the judgment;
I'll go with Him thro' the judgment, I'll go with Him, with Him all the way. *Refrain***

**He will give me grace and glory; He will give me grace and glory;
He will give me grace and glory, And go with me, with me all the way. *Refrain***

*Refrain: Where He leads me I will follow; Where He leads me I will follow;
Where He leads me I will follow, I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.*

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.

C: Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

▼ FIRST READING—EZEKIEL 33:7-20 *(Pew Bible, p. 856)*

[God appoints the prophet Ezekiel to be a "watchman" for the nation, that is, to be a prophet who will warn them of God's judgment against their sin. The text reminds us that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but would rather they turned from their evil ways and live. You and I should always remember that repentance is God-pleasing and for our good!]

▼ SECOND READING—1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13 *(Pew Bible, p. 1137)*

[St. Paul reminds us that the “fulfillment of the ages” has come. Another way of saying this is that God’s plan of salvation is complete in the work of Christ and we live now in the “gospel age” which stretches from “cross to crown”. Paul encourages us not to be like the Hebrew people who rebelled against God in the wilderness, but rather stand firm in Christ and resist temptation.]

▼ CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

▲ LENTEN VERSE *(Sung)*

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES—Luke 13:1-9 *(Spoken; Pew Bible, p. 1021)*

P: The Holy Gospel from St. Luke, chapter 13. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

[Jesus warns us that “ordinary sinners” who refuse to repent will perish in God’s judgement every bit as much as truly wicked sinners. God has planted us in his vineyard and expects us to bear godly fruit. If we don’t, we risk being cut down by God. Once again we are reminded that our lives and actions matter to God, so they should also matter to us.]

▼ SERMON

▲ HYMN OF THE DAY—“Jesus, The Very Thought of You” *(Sung; LBW #316)*

**Jesus, the very thought of you Fills us with sweet delight;
But sweeter far your face to view And rest within your light.**

**No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the mind recall
A sweeter sound than your blest name, O Savior of us all!**

**O Hope of ev’ry contrite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
How kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!**

**O Jesus, be our joy today; Help us to prize your love;
Grant us at last to hear you say: “Come, share my home above.”**

▲ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Spoken)*

(During Lent, Prayers will be spoken in the midst of the Congregation. Members may offer petitions and/or public prayer from their seat. Pastor will return to the altar to conclude the prayer)

P: The Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when they call to him. *(Psalm 4:3)*

C: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

▲ OFFERING HYMN *(Sung, Psalm 51:10-12)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

▲ OFFERING PRAYER *(Spoken)*

P: Almighty God, draw our hearts to you.

C: Use us as you will, always to your glory, as we seek the welfare of all people. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION AT THE LORD'S SUPPER

▲ PREPARATION OF OUR HEARTS—CONFESSION OF SIN *(Spoken)*

P: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, St. Paul exhorts us with these words concerning the Holy Sacrament: "Let a person examine themselves...and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Cor. 11:28). In order that we may worthily partake of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and receive the forgiveness he offers, let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to our merciful God.

C: O God, I confess that I have sinned against you and others by my own fault. With a humble and contrite heart, I lift to you those thoughts, words, and deeds of which I am ashamed, asking your mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ my Lord.

(Moment for examining one's heart)

P: God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. **C: Amen.**

P: Come now in faith to the holy table that you may commune with Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord.

C: O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ THE SANCTUS *(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

▲ WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

▲ AGNUS DEI *(Sung)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

▼ HOLY COMMUNION *(Choir Sings)*

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN *(Sung; LBW #200, 1&4)*

For the bread which you have broken, For the wine which you have poured, For the words which you have spoken, Now we give you thanks, O Lord.

In your service, Lord, defend us; In our hearts keep watch and ward, In the world to which you send us Let your kingdom come, O Lord.

▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Spoken)*

P: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and the model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

▲ BENEDICTION *(Spoken)*

P: May the God who is able to keep you from falling and present you before His glorious presence strengthen you for spiritual battle through the Spirit of Christ our Lord. **C: Amen** *(Jude 1:24-25, alt)*

▲ SENDING HYMN—"ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME" (*Sung, LBW #327*)

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee.

▲ DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

P: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...

C: **that we not grow weary nor lose heart!** (*Hebrews 12:2-3*)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE—KAREN WARNELL

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