

**Destroy
this
temple,
and**

**I will raise it
again in three
days”**

John 2:19, NIV

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Sunday, March 7, 2021

8:15 and 10:45 am - Communion

Third Sunday in Lent

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Deep River*

- traditional American spiritual/Heastings

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all
desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy
name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our
sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our
sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

L: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: 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 minister of the church 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.

GATHERING SONG

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

324

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream-ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
Music: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

RATHBUN
8787

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 20: 1-17

L: The first reading is from Exodus, the 20th chapter.

¹ Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You 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. ⁵ You 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, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But 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 slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

¹¹ For 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.

¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that 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, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

L: Please let us read responsively Psalm 19.

¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

² **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴ **yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶ **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ **the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, even much
fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the
honeycomb.**

¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great
transgression.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

L: The second reading is from First Corinthians, the 1st chapter.

¹⁸ For 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. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where 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? ²¹ For 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. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 2: 13-25

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 2nd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making 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. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After 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.

²³ When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

483

Here Is Bread



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
 Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
 We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

HERE IS BREAD
 3 3 4 4 3 3 5 and refrain

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

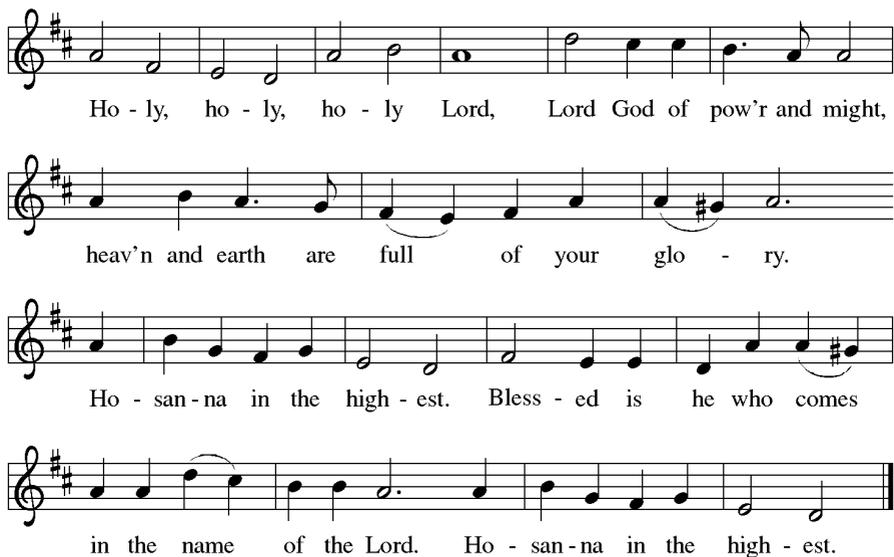
C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Taste and see that the Lord is good.
C: **Amen**

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray.
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

656

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The vocal line contains four lines of lyrics. The piano accompaniment line has a bass line and a chordal line. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The piano accompaniment line continues with a bass line and a chordal line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

DENNIS
SM

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Open My Eyes - Clara H. Scott/Osman

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INCLUDES:

	8:15 Service	10:45 Service
LECTOR	Dave Fugate	Dick Beatty
GREETER	Marge Kollinger	Susan Beatty
OFFERING COUNTERS	Jackie Bice and Bob Bicker	

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Madison Crytzer 8-Mar
 Deborah Fugate 11-Mar
 Velma Boltz 13-Mar

Joe and Carol Neubert 3/7
 Ron and Patricia Perkins 3/11



Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday in March 14th. Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Unfortunately, we "lose" an hour of sleep as we "spring forward."

OUR JOYS, PRAYERS, CARES AND CONCERNS

Praise and Thanksgiving: for answered prayers (Jeannine's improvement, Kathy's recovery, and Jim F's cancer surgery), for faith to help us grow closer to you, for the Holy Spirit who helps us to overcome our own wilderness of sin and temptation

Healing, Cares & Concerns:

Jennifer (cancer)
Steven (13, recovery & physical therapy),
Marilyn (test results),
Jim F. (cancer, biopsy results),
Harry Gillman,
Delores Hickey (Marie Riggs's sister, cancer),
Liz Gordon (test results, stomach issues),
Vicky Yurga (lung cancer, health problems),
Ellen Dodge (broken shoulder),
Jarrod (badly burned),
Candace (twins pregnancy complications) Pat Perkins' daughter,
Bonnie Gundlach (broken ankle, blot clot in other thigh),
Cody Johnston (metastasized cancer),
Edna Mae Gerner (concussion, Concordia),
Leroy Renfrew (moved to Concordia),
Alice Gordon,
Mark Kollinger (treatments for back),
Ted Neill,
Finely Stearn (infection),
Joshua Harper (brain aneurysm),
Sarah (for the help she needs)
Roger Walker (chemo follicular lymphoma) Wendy Mendenhall's dad,

Weekly Schools: Freeport Area & Duquesne University

Weekly NALC Church: First Evangelical Lutheran, Ridgway, PA
Rev. Susan Fox and St. Luke's Church

Bereaved: Families of Virginia Womeldorf

Monthly Mission: Child Evangelism Fellowship and North American Lutheran Seminary (Lenten Focus)



By The Rev. Dr. Eric M. Riesen, NALS President

"For I delivered to you as of first importance...." I
Cor 15:3a, ESV

Recently I heard a theologian address the question of the value of seminary education. Why should anyone spend years of his or her life pursuing a degree which has little cash value or cultural clout? We live, as the philosopher Charles Taylor argues persuasively, in "a secular age" which is defined by "exclusive humanism." This means that the religious dimension of human life is increasingly sidelined, or even excluded. This is an age which focuses on the practical problems of the here and now and has little time to ponder the mysteries of the *supposed* hereafter.

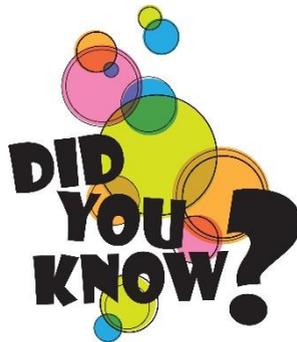
How do we respond to such a critique of theological education? The theologian gave a simple and profound response. We pursue theological education because the scriptural gospel of Jesus Christ is true. Theological education provides the necessary time and space to think deeply about the truth of the biblical gospel and what it means for each of us personally and the whole world.

Everything we confess is dependent upon the veracity of the gospel. It would be difficult to exaggerate how high the stakes really are. St. Paul bluntly wrote, "If Christ has not been raised your faith is futile and you are still in your sins...[and] we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Cor 15:17-19 ESV). If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then theological education has been delivered a fatal blow.

However, Jesus Christ was *in reality* crucified, died, buried and raised from the dead. This is of "first importance." He is Lord of the living and the dead. Through the Holy Spirit he continues to be present in the word and the breaking of the bread (Luke 24). The scriptural gospel is true — and powerful. It has the power to break our bondage to darkness, despair and other *great and shameful sins*. The gospel is "the power (*dynamis*) of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16). It is the power that draws us out of unbelief, sin and death into a life which glorifies God.

Good and faithful theological education grounds people in the verities of Christian faith. This is the goal of theological education and pastoral formation in the NALS. We equip pastors and lay leaders to proclaim the scriptural gospel with love, wisdom, knowledge, courage and grace. Nothing is more important. In order to make this happen, we need your prayers and financial support. We also need you to lift up candidates who are discerning a call to ministry.

It is an honor and joy to take part in the formation of those who will have the great privilege and responsibility of proclaiming the scriptural gospel of Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us in this endeavor.



The NALS offers degrees through its relationship with Trinity School for Ministry.

Degree programs

- Master of Divinity (M.Div.) - average cost of \$50,000
- Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) - average cost of \$33,000

Diploma and certificate programs

- Diploma in Lutheran Studies - average cost of \$16,500
- Certificate in Lutheran Studies - average cost of \$3,000

The seminary also offers individual courses to supplement the educational requirements needed for those in the candidacy process to become ordained pastors in the North American Lutheran Church.

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)



CEF is a Bible-centered ministry that reaches boys and girls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and establishes them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living. CEF has a presence in Butler County. While there are different ministries for children, the primary ones are the Good News Club and the 5-Day Club. These ministries take place in neighborhood settings such as homes, backyards, schools and community centers all over the world. The programs are designed to bring the gospel to children at their level in their environment. CEF also has fair, camping, open-air and internet ministries for children. The combined ministries reaches over 20.4 million children worldwide with the Good News. The international headquarters of CEF is located in Warrenton, Missouri. The ministry was founded in 1937.

Easter Flowers

Orders due next Sunday, March 14th



Lily

Single	\$8.00
Double	\$16.00
Triple	\$24.00

Tulips

\$7.00

Daffodils

\$7.00

Complete the order form located in the bulletin and place in the offering plate.