

Sunday, February 28, 2016

Third Sunday in Lent

FIRST READING. Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

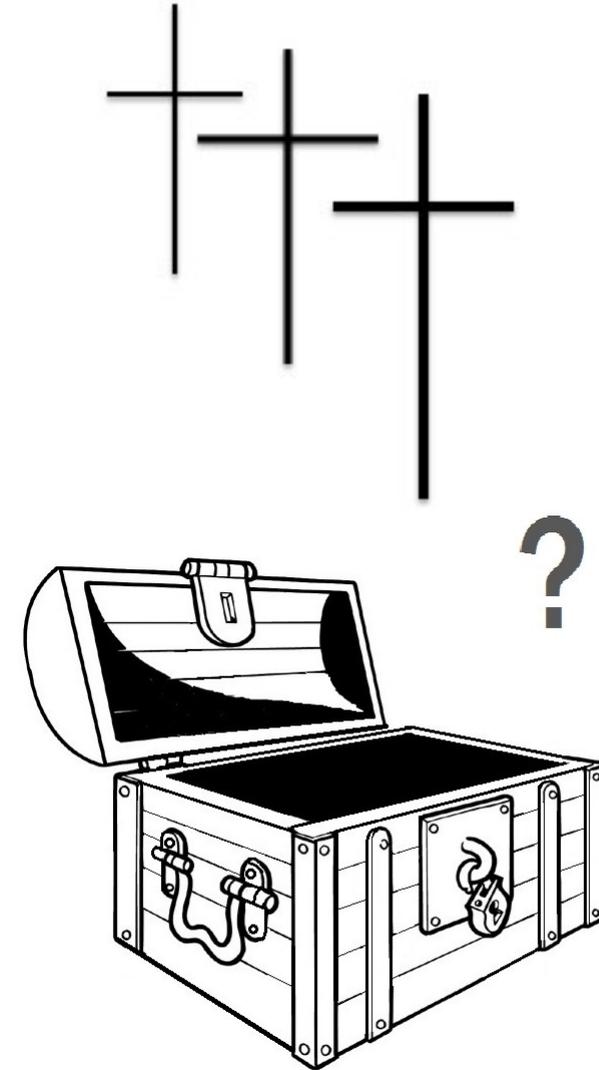
SECOND LESSON. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL. Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Lent: Discovering the Treasure



**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 28, 2016**

Third Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2016
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, Minnesota
(218) 739-3348

Online
Giving
(QR Code)



Website: www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

Email: firstlc@live.com

Come! Eat, and Drink! Today's text offers a gracious invitation to exiles living outside of Judah to come to the land that is overflowing with abundance. God's gifts overflow for all of us. How can we be gracious stewards of God's treasures and help share these gifts with the world?

Prelude

Announcements

* Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
By what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin
And to serve you in the newness of life. Amen**

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth,
and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
God forgives us all our sins.

Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness
and keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

* Opening Hymn

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

* Apostolic Greeting

ELW Page 138

* Kyrie

ELW Page 138

Coffee and refreshments today are served in the Narthex between services by the families of Jake & Sam Western and Dalton & Nycole Mouritsen.

Large Print Edition of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.

Visitors! If you didn't get a "Visitors Bag" when you came in this morning please pick one up on your way out after worship. You'll find them in a basket located on the small table on the ramp coming up from the narthex into the sanctuary.

Altar Flowers are in celebration of Tom & Jane Willet's 60th wedding anniversary on February 25th, given by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Roses on the Altar are in celebration of the baptisms of Jaxson Dehreck Lee & Dehreck Hugh Janssen, father and son. Mother is Kristie Janssen. Sponsors for Jaxson are Devon Scott, Dorris Warren and Haley Kutzke. Sponsors for Dehreck are Allan & Sandy Kutzke. Guardian Angel is Emilie Koch.

Known Hospitalized: Tim Overland at Essentia Health in Fargo.

Lenten midweek worship will be Wednesdays at 12:10 and 7 pm Vespers. A homemade soup lunch will be available after the mid-day worship and will be served in the narthex or you can get soup in a cup with buttered bread and a bar, **TO GO!!** **Reminder to Confirmants: ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED.**

Opportunity to Serve: Are you looking for a great way to learn about the "behind-the-scenes" aspect of worship? As a Sacristan, you get to help the Pastors make sure everything is in its place before worship begins. This includes (never all at once) bringing the cross & bible into the Conference Room, helping acolytes & other worship leaders get robed, lining up the processional parties. Seeing to these details can go far in helping provide for a meaningful worship experience for all who come. Please call the church office at 739-3348 if you are interested in learning more about being a Sacristan.

Attention High School Seniors: Scholarship Application forms for the 2016 ELCA \$1,000 Scholarship have been mailed to your homes. Applications must be completed by April 15, 2016

Fergus Falls Blood Drive – at First Lutheran Church on Tuesday, March 29th from 1-7 p.m. Appointment info: 1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767) or www.redcrossblood.org **March is Red Cross Month. Every donation you give helps us do more of what we do.**

Our First Lutheran Relay For Life Team will be having a bake sale on Sunday, March 6th from 9:30 – 11:00 (between services). If you are interested in donating baked goods for the sale, please drop them off in the church office or on the info counter that morning. Thank you for supporting your Relay For Life Team!

Fergus Falls Conference Gathering Today - Our Synod has recently re-organized into 8 conferences (previously there were 10.) Today at Bethlehem in Fergus Falls from 3-5 PM, we will have a business meeting where we will elect a new Dean (clergy), Chair (lay), Secretary, and Treasurer for our conference. All are welcome!

This Week at First Lutheran:

Today: 8:30 & 11 am Worship
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
3-5 p.m. Conference Gathering at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Monday: 9:00 a.m. WELCA Love Days
 5:00 p.m. Al-Anon
 5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon
 10:00 a.m. AA
12:10 p.m. Lenten Worship & Lunch in Narthex
3:45-5 p.m. FLY K7 – Lent Event (No Children’s Choir, we will have bus pick-up)
7:00 p.m. Lenten Vespers – Confirmation students required to attend
 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir (following Vespers)
 7:30 p.m. Senior FLY (following Vespers)

Thursday: 8:45 a.m. Morning Watch – Substitute – KBRF AM 1250
 9:45 a.m. Sr Coffee & Bible Study (Conference Room)

Friday: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Next Sunday, March 6:

8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:00 a.m. 4th Grade Milestone Class with Parents

*** Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray ...
 C Amen

First Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God’s ways are not our ways.

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God.**)

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God’s faithfulness.

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God.**)

***Lenten Sentence**

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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

(After Gospel is announced, congregation says, **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

(Congregational response after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

Sermon

Treasures for All

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW 777
(v. 1-4)

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00)

ELW Page 227

Children’s Event

Pastor Jennifer

*** Apostles' Creed (8:30)**

Inside back cover of the ELW Hymnal

*** The PEACE is shared**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering

*** Offertory**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*** The Prayers**

P ...Lord, in your mercy,

OR

P ... Let us pray to the Lord,

C hear our prayer.

C Lord, have mercy.

*** The Lord's Prayer**

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

*** Benediction**

*** Three-Fold Amen**

*** Blessing and Sending**

(Congregational response: "Thanks be to God")

*** Closing Hymn**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW 807

*** Postlude**

* indicates where to stand

Senior Pastor:

Associate Pastor:

Visitation Pastor:

Sunday School Superintendent:

Council President:

Organist:

Greeters:

Lectors:

Acolytes:

Cantor:

PA operator:

Saul Stensvaag

Jennifer Rose

Stan Satre

Cindy Larson

Elizabeth Abrahams

Keith Melberg

8:30- John & Suzanne Demuth

11-Jacqueline Ness-Ludwig family

8:30 - Kevyn Heck 11- Allan Jensen

8:30- Cole Knudson 11-Jacob Spangler

8:30- Jacob Opatz 11- Paul Sanderson

8:30-Paul Dimke 11-Margaret Ness-Ludwig