

REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

4955 W. 158th Street

Oak Forest, Illinois 60452

708-687-2432

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

9:30A.M.

The cost of our Bulletin cover is donated by
McKENZIE FUNERAL HOME
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Pastor Soren Flessen
Organist/ Piano~ Amy Ogarek
Office Administrator~ Deb Frawley
Music Coordinator~ Jan Strojny
Videographer~ Art James

Ministers- The People of Redeemer's

LECTOR

Bob Hecht



Altar flowers
are given by
Mary Ann & Ray White
for blessings received.



*Wednesdays during Lent: Study at 7pm
March 23, 30 & April 6*

Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday 9:30am

Thursday, April 14: Maundy Thursday/Good Friday 7pm

Sunday, April 17: 9:30am

The Resurrection of Our Lord!

Easter is around the corner, and again we are taking orders for Easter Lilies to adorn the chancel area for Easter morning. The cost is \$15 each. Please put money in a separate envelope with your name and quantity on it and put in the offering plate. Orders need to be paid for by Palm Sunday, April 10. Again, you will be able to take yours home or gift it after worship on April 17.



March 27 there will be a short congregational meeting to accept the Annual book of reports.

Blessing

P: You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, + bless you this day and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn:

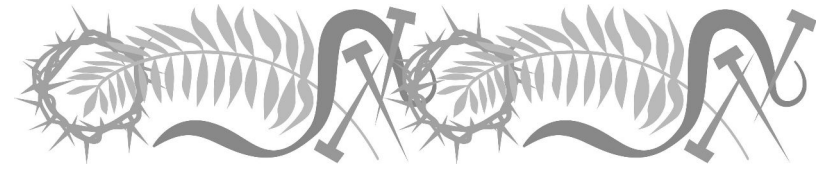
**“In the Peace of God Find Rest”
In the peace of God find rest;
in the pow’r of God find strength;
in the love of God find grace;
in God's peace find rest.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude:



March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

“Discovering Christ’s community through building relationships”

+++++

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Prelude: “Jesus Will Still Be There”

Welcome
(Please stand as able)

Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness:

P: In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection

C: Holy One, we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In + Jesus’ name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C: Amen.

Passing of the Peace:

“During this time of Covid, please remain in your pew, but share a sign of peace with the neighbors around you”

Gathering Song: "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" Red book #325

Greeting

P: 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.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy. (repeat)
 Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ have mercy. (repeat)
 Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy. (repeat)

The Prayer of the Day

C: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The first reading is from the 55th Chapter of Isaiah

First Reading: 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 God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹Ho, 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.

²Why 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.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer (spoken):

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.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

(Please remain standing)

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song: "Lamb Of God"

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
 Have mercy upon us Have mercy upon us.
 O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
 Have mercy upon us Have mercy upon us.
 O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
 grant us your peace, Grant us your peace.**

Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our living, risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

C: Amen.

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the advocacy efforts of this congregation: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With (*names* and) all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
(*Please stand as able*)

Offertory Prayer

C: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy:

**Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, Lord.**

Words of Institution

my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, 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.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷Let 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.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Song: "He Loved Me With a Cross" Winnie, Linda, Jan

The second reading is from the 10th Chapter of 1 Corinthians

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures 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.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do 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." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were

destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These 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. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as able)

Gospel Acclamation: “Turn Back to the Lord”

C: Turn back to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness. Slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: 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.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or 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? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then 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. ⁷So 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?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

(Please stand as able)

Sermon Hymn: “Our Father We Have Wandered” red book# 606

Apostle’s Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

P: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.