

Lent 3 – Through Foolishness

Grace Lutheran Church

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

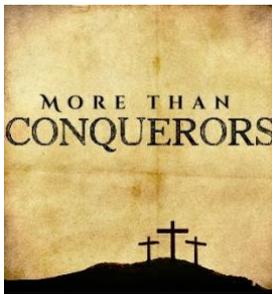
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The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring (“lengten,” the time of the year when the days grow longer). For the last 1700 years, the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of preparation, of repentance and renewal.

During Lent, our rejoicing is muted as we remember our Lord’s suffering and death. But it is with a purpose: we know that the Lord who died took up his life again on Easter Sunday morning. So our 40 days (for precise counters, the Sundays aren’t counted as part of Lent and are considered “little Easters”) are observed knowing that the battle has been won for us at the cross and empty tomb.

The color of the season is purple. Purple is the ancient color of royalty. We have this kind of king: he wore a crown of thorns, and carried a cross for us. Thanks be to God!



More Than Conquerors in Lent

Feb.21 – Through Christ

Feb.28 - Through Peace

Today - Through Foolishness

March 14 – Through Grace

March 21 – Through Salvation

March 28 – Through Humbleness



Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace

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REMEMBER YOUR LOVE

Psalm 27

March 7, 2021

This alternate beginning to worship reminds us that conquering in the Christian life comes by simply remembering Christ's love for us.

L: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.
Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.

**C: The Lord is my light and salvation, whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life and my refuge, when I call, God hears.**

**If you dwelt, O Lord, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand?
But with you there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand.**

**O Lord, hear the sound of my call and answer me.
My heart cries out for your presence; it is you I seek.**

L: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.
Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and action. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

These cries for mercy fit the theme of the day.

L: 1. Lord Jesus, obedient in our place, **C: Lord, have mercy.**
2. Christ Jesus, you did the Father's will, **C: Christ, have mercy.**
3. Lord Jesus, your cross is our salvation, **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**All: Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.
Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17

*Love and service
are never perfect,
and therefore we
need our Savior
(LORD).*

*But love and
service are never
optional, so our
Savior gave us his
law that we might
love.*

And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping 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. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and

all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land 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 give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

GOSPEL LESSON

John 2:13-22 (p.1051)

In zealous love for His Father, Jesus drives sin out of the temple. What would he drive out of you today?

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” [Psalm 69:9]

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

L. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.



HYMN OF THE DAY

Power of the Cross
Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
Nailed to the cross of wood.

Refrain: This the power of the cross,
Christ became sin for us,
took the blame
bore the wrath
we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh to see the pain written on your face.
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought every evil deed.
Crowning your blood stain brow. Refrain

Now the day light flees, now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
"Finished!" The victory cry. Refrain

Oh to see my name written in the wounds,
For through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live.
Won through your selfless love.

This, the power of the cross:
Son of God slain for us.
What a love,
What a cost.
We stand forgiven at the cross.

**More Than
Conquerors...**

Through
Foolishness

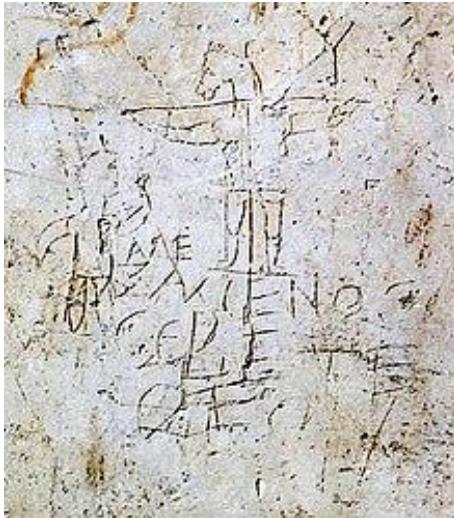
SERMON LESSON

based on 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message of 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;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” [Isaiah 29:14]

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE SACRAMENT

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
*Sanctus***

M: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

C: **You are my God, and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.**

M: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

C: **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. and grant us your peace. Amen.**

Following the distribution, there is a prayer and closing blessing.

BLESSING

- M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
- C:** **Amen.**

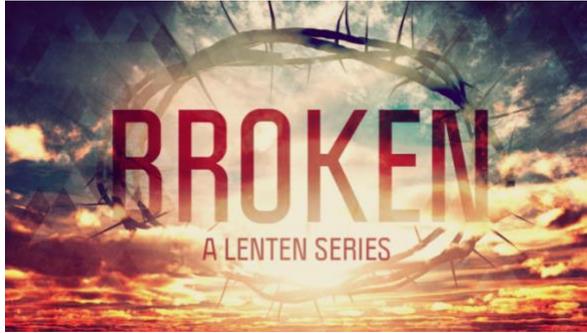


CLOSING HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (#125)

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Text: Isaac Watts,
1674–1748, abr., alt.



PRAYERS

- Praise and recovering from **Brad** _____ surgery
- **Tanya** _____ for doctor's appointment and tests this week
- **Phil** _____ who fell and is recovering from surgery after a fall
(for online worshippers, contact church for more information)

CALENDAR

Wednesday – Online midweek Lent: Broken Trust

Thursday – Zoom Bible Study at 10 AM or 7 PM

SUNDAY – Worship – online or 9:30 AM in person

Confirmation class

Certain hope
FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

Easter – April 4th – 8:00 AM or 9:30 AM / or Online

March 13 – LWMS Virtual Rally (Our mission box offerings were \$2,100.)

March 13 – California Lutheran High School FUNdRUN

