



*"Jesus Is Serious About His Work"*

John 2:13-22  
Third Sunday in Lent 2021

*St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church  
Little Chute, WI*

*Rev. Ronald C. Szep, pastor*

**Sunday, March 7, 2021**

**Today's Order of Service has been printed out in its entirety in this service folder. Printed and recorded under OneLicense.net #A-717066**

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The order of service is Morning Devotion (abridged)

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### **THIRD SUNDAY in LENT**

Lent shows us that God is serious about all of his Word.

*Greeting by the minister*

*Please Stand*

#### **OPENING DIALOGUE:**

Minister: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

**Congregation: Your mercies are new every morning.**

M: Guide our steps by the light of your Word.

**C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.**

M: Better than life is your love.

**C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips.**

#### **THE PRAYER FOR GRACE:**

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

## **SCRIPTURE LESSON: Exodus 20:1-17**

These are the commandments (not the suggestions or pious wishes!) of the LORD our God. As Luther reminds us, the word LORD really means Savior. As Savior he gives himself to us. But in doing so he remains God. We do not become God; he gives himself to us as Savior on his terms, not ours. So he saves us from our slavery in Egypt; he saves us from our running back again to slavery. But every time he saves us it is so that we can live in obedience, not in license. Notice that such obedience starts with love for God and shows itself in service to our neighbor. Love and service are never perfect, and therefore his work as Savior is our constant need. But love and service are never optional either. Thus he gave the law not because he needed our obedience, but because our neighbor needs our obedience to the law and we need his. God chooses to take it personally if we hurt the other, whom he loves as much as he loves us. That makes God, even in the law, always the one who loves us; it makes us always what we see so plainly in Lent, sinners. Jesus came to Lent to rescue us from slavery, and he brings back again not to license, but to obedience.

**20** *And God spoke all these words:*

<sup>2</sup> *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

<sup>3</sup> *"You shall have no other gods before me.*

<sup>4</sup> *"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.*

<sup>5</sup> *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,*

<sup>6</sup> *but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

<sup>7</sup> *"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*

<sup>8</sup> *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*

<sup>9</sup> *Six days you shall labor and do all your work,*

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

<sup>11</sup> *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.*

<sup>12</sup> *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.*

<sup>13</sup> *"You shall not murder.*

<sup>14</sup> *"You shall not commit adultery.*

<sup>15</sup> *"You shall not steal.*

<sup>16</sup> *"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*

<sup>17</sup> *"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.*

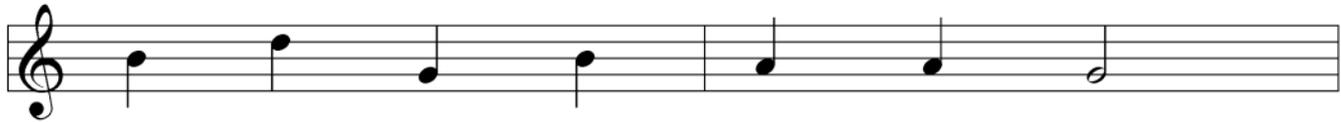
**HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 226**  
**“To Your Temple I Draw Near”**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: GOTT SEI DANK DURCH ALLE WELT (77 77) Freylinghausen, *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, alt.



1 To your tem - ple I draw near;  
 2 I through Christ am rec - on - ciled;  
 3 While your glo - rious praise is sung,  
 4 While the prayers of saints as - cend,  
 5 While I lis - ten to your law,



Lord, I love to wor - ship here.  
 I through Christ be - come your child.  
 Touch my lips, un - loose my tongue,  
 God of love, to mine at - tend.  
 Fill my soul with ho - ly awe



Here are sac - ra - ment and Word;  
 Ab - ba, Fa - ther, give me grace  
 That my joy - ful soul may bless  
 Hear me, for your Spir - it pleads;  
 Till your gos - pel brings to me



Here be - liev - ers meet their Lord.  
 In your courts to seek your face.  
 Christ the Lord, my right - eous - ness.  
 Hear, for Je - sus in - ter - cedes.  
 Life and im - mor - tal - i - ty.

6 While your ministers proclaim  
Peace and pardon in your name,  
Through their voice, by faith, may I  
Hear you speaking from the sky.

7 From your house, when I return,  
May my heart within me burn,  
And at evening let me say,  
“I have walked with God today.”

**SERMON:** *based on John 2:13-22*  
**“Jesus Is Serious About His Work”**

People in Jesus’ day seemed to assume that because they had the temple, the Word, the sacrifices, they had a license to do whatever they pleased, even in the temple. Not much has changed, has it? But Jesus would have none of it. He is serious about his Word and about this house and what went on there. For the temple and its sacrifices were supposed to mirror what Jesus himself was: God’s dwelling place on earth! Let no one think now that Jesus has lost any of his zeal for the house of the church and his sanctuary in the gospel (cf. Luther’s Large Catechism, Third Commandment) which bears him and reveals him before the world. So great was his love that he gave himself to be destroyed; so great was his love that he came back in three days; so great is his love that he continues dwelling in his sanctuary of Word and sacrament to this day, and through them dwelling in us as his temples. What would he drive out of you today? The Old Testament lesson tells us.

<sup>13</sup> *When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*

<sup>14</sup> *In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.*

<sup>15</sup> *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.*

<sup>16</sup> *To those who sold doves he said,*

*“Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!”*

<sup>17</sup> *His disciples remembered that it is written:*

*“Zeal for your house will consume me.”*

<sup>18</sup> *The Jews then responded to him,*

*“What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”*

<sup>19</sup> *Jesus answered them,*

*“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”*

<sup>20</sup> *They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?”*

<sup>21</sup> *But the temple he had spoken of was his body.*

<sup>22</sup> *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.*

*Please Stand*

**PRAYERS:**

**Luther's Morning Prayer** *(in unison)*

**I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

*Special prayers and intercessions: optional, read by the minister*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent Prayer*

M: 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.**

**The Lord's Prayer** *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*The minister prepares the elements at the Lord's Table.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

*The distribution hymn will not be sung today. Please read through the following verses while the sacrament is being distributed. Those partaking of the Lord's Supper, please follow the direction of the minister and the ushers.*

#### **401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ**

1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, Speak gladness to this heart.  
They tell me all is done; They bid my fear depart.  
To whom but you, who can alone  
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my sinful soul;  
Your wounds, not mine, contain The balm that makes me whole.  
To whom but you, who can alone  
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the dreadful load  
Of sins that none could bear But the incarnate God.  
To whom but you, who can alone  
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

4 Your death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ransom due;  
Ten thousand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.  
To whom but you, who can alone  
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

5 Your righteousness, O Christ, Alone can cover me;  
No other righteousness Can set a sinner free.  
To whom but you, who can alone  
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

*Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.*

*Please Stand*

#### **THE THANKSGIVING:**

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING:

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: CW Hymn 456

### *"Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go"*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, abr., alt.

Tune: LAKEWOOD (LM) Barry L. Bobb, b. 1951. © 1981 Barry L. Bobb. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



1 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go, My dai - ly  
2 Oh, let me cheer - ful - ly ful - fill The task your  
3 May I find you at my right hand; Your eyes see  
4 Give me to bear your eas - y yoke And ev - 'ry  
5 For you I joy - ous - ly em - ploy What - ev - er



la - bor to pur - sue, De - ter - mined on - ly  
wis - dom has as - signed And do your good and  
tru - ly what I do. I la - bor on at  
mo - ment watch and pray And still to things e -  
you in grace have giv'n; I run my dai - ly



you to know In all I think or speak or do.  
per - fect will— In all my works your pres - ence find!  
your com - mand And of - fer all my works to you.  
ter - nal look And has - ten to your glo - rious day.  
course with joy And close - ly walk with you to heav'n.