



"Destroy
this temple,
and I will
raise it again
in three days."

John 2:19

Sunday, March 3, 2024
Third Sunday in Lent

Service Theme
RETHINKING THE WORTH OF WORSHIP

Person A never attends worship. He can't see the point. Person B attends every week out of a slavish sense of obligation. Her mind wanders during the services, for she views the activities of worship merely as tasks for her to complete. Who is worse off? Rather than debating the point, let us just admit neither understand the true worth of worship. And that is exactly what Satan wants. Many think worship is about what we do for God. It is the other way around. As we gather around Word and sacrament, the Spirit moves us to love and trust in God above all things. Moved by the cross of Christ, we bow down before our God. We commune with him. And that's exactly what God wants.

Hymn

CW 255 - Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

- 1 **Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!**
- 2 **Gracious God, I come before thee;
Come thou also unto me.
Where we find thee and adore thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou;
Let it be thy temple now!**
- 3 **Here thy praise is gladly chanted;
Here thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.**
- 4 **Thou my faith increase and quicken;
Let me keep thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
May thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.**
- 5 **Speak, O God, and I will hear thee;
Let thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near thee
While thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.**

Opening Prayer

M: In the name of Jesus our Lord and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we call on you, dear heavenly Father:

C: Hear us for Your name's sake.

M: We approach you confidently at the beginning of this day, for we rely on Jesus, our Redeemer, for the full forgiveness of sins:

C: Receive our thankful worship for His sake.

M: By the Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and of Your will for our lives. Fill our hearts with joy and peace into eternity:

C: In You, O Lord, have we taken refuge; never let us be ashamed.

M: O Lord, our Rock and our Fortress, assure us that because you live, we shall live also:

C: In You we hope: Our praise is for You. Amen

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson
Exodus 20:1-17 (EHV)

The Ten Commandments teach us that God is to be worshiped above all. Why? He is the God who brought us out of slavery.

Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, where you were slaves.

³You shall have no other gods beside me. ⁴You shall not make any carved image for yourself or a likeness of anything in heaven above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. ⁵Do not bow down to them or be subservient to them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God. I follow up on the guilt of the fathers with their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren, if they also hate me. ⁶But I show mercy to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not permit anyone who misuses his name to escape unpunished.

⁸Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. ⁹Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, ¹⁰but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God.

Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, ¹¹for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

¹²Honor your father and your mother so that you may spend many days on the land that the LORD your God is giving to you.

¹³You shall not commit murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

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

Psalm 19
(page 70)

Refrain

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**The heavens declare the glory of God;*
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

**Their voice goes out into all the earth,*
their words to the ends of the world.**

Refrain

**The law of the LORD is perfect,*
giving joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the LORD are radiant,*
giving light to the eyes.**

**They are more precious than gold;*
they are sweeter than honey.**

**By them is your servant taught;*
in keeping them there is great reward.**

Refrain

**May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart*
be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (EHV)

Whatever it is you trust most, that is what you truly worship. Some worship intelligence. Others worship power. May we worship Christ for what he did on the cross.

¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹In fact, it is written:

I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will bring to nothing.

²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Jewish law? Where is the probing thinker of the present age? Has God not shown that the wisdom of this world is foolish?

²¹Indeed, since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in his wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message. ²²Yes,

Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Verse of the Day

His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” (John 2:17)

(The Alleluias and Gospel responses are omitted during the season of Lent)

Gospel
John 2:13–22 (EHV)

Jesus restores his Father's house to what it was supposed to be: a place of worship for all people.

¹³The Jewish Passover was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers sitting at tables.

¹⁵He made a whip of cords and drove everyone out of the temple courts, along with the sheep and oxen. He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those selling doves he said, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a place of business!"

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸So the Jews responded, "What sign are you going to show us to prove you can do these things?"

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

²⁰The Jews said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple! And you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹But Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this. Then they believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said.

Hymn

CW 390 Salvation unto Us Has Come

**1 Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor.
Good works cannot avert our doom;
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is the one Redeemer.**

- 2 What God does in his law demand
And none to him can render,
Brings wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires
The spirit of the law requires,
And lost is our condition.**
- 3 It is a false, misleading dream
That God his law has given
That sinners can themselves redeem
And by their works gain heaven.
The law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.**
- 4 Yet as the law must be fulfilled
Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.**
- 5 Since Christ has full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead;
Your death is now my life indeed,
For you have paid my ransom.**
- 6 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by his grace—
All glory to his merit!
O Triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed your saving love;
Your blessed name be hallowed!**

Sermon Text & Theme

John 2:13-22. . . **Jesus Restores God's Temple**

- 1) He restores the way of worship.
- 2) He restores the centre of worship

The Apostles' Creed

(Melody: CW 365 "Love Divine, All Love Excelling")

I believe in God the Father, Maker of the heav'n and earth. And in Jesus Christ, our Savior, God's own Son, of human birth. Virgin born, the Lord incarnate, whom the Spirit did conceive, suffered under Pontius Pilate; He's the God whom I believe.

Crucified, was dead and buried; Down to hell in victory; From the dead He rose the third day; Up to heaven triumphantly. There at God's right hand He's ruling, by his will the world is led. He will come to judge the nations, both the living and the dead.

I believe in God the Spirit; in His Church, His chosen band. They are joined in sweet communion; Holy in his sight they stand. I believe in sins forgiven; I believe I'll rise again; I believe in life eternal. Amen! Amen! Amen!

Offertory Prayer

Confession and Absolution

(Please stand)

M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

C: I do confess!

M: It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

C: I do repent!

M: It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*" (1 John 1:8)

3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

C: I do believe!

M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, "*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16)

4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, "I do so promise!"

C: I do so promise!

M: It is right for you to promise because God's Word says, "*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*" (Matthew 3:8)

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: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

C: (sing) O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the

Distribution

Hymn

CW 616 - Feed Your Children, God Most Holy

**Feed your children, God most holy;
Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
Jesus, bread of life from heaven,
Bless the food you here have given.
As these gifts the body nourish,
May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor
At your feast due thanks we render.**

Thanksgiving

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Dear God, heavenly Father, how great is your love for us! You willingly sent your beloved Son to a world of sinful rebels. The innocent one came to serve the guilty, but his own people rejected him, and his enemies tortured him and put him to death. Because you did not withhold your one and only Son but let him take our guilt on himself to set us free, we praise your holy name.

Dear Son of God, our brother, how great is your love for us! You allowed yourself to be condemned so that we could be declared not guilty. Fill our hearts with the same self-sacrificing love that you showed us. You allowed no suffering, no fear, and no doubt to swerve you from your path to Calvary. Give us the same single-minded dedication and unshakable commitment as we daily take up our cross and follow you.

Dear Holy Spirit, how great is your love for us! By Word and sacrament you have warmed and transformed our foolish and stubborn hearts, making us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and receptive to his gospel of forgiveness. Hold his cross before our eyes that we may dedicate our lives to him who died for us. Make us strong in the hour of temptation. Lead us to love and serve our neighbor as unselfishly as Christ did.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

Keep us in the true faith in unity with all faithful Christians, and grant us a blessed death. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

C: **Amen.**

Hymn

CW 287 The Law of God Is Good and Wise

- 1 **The law of God is good and wise;
It sets his will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
But dooms to death when we transgress.**
- 2 **The law is good, but since the fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sins to die
And has no pow'r to justify.**
- 3 **Its light of holiness imparts
The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate
And seek relief before too late.**

**4 To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at his throne,
Saved by his grace through faith alone.**

Announcements

Lenten Series

Baptized into His Death

St. Paul writes, “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?” (Romans 6:3). There is a connection between our baptism and Christ’s passion. Lent is the perfect season to learn anew all that which God’s Word tells us about Baptism. We will see how we were powerfully connected in our baptism to all Christ’s saving work. We will study again what our baptism means for our daily lives. And we will rededicate ourselves to the struggle of living the new life Baptism gives. Join us for our upcoming midweek Lent series: Baptized into His Death

Week 4 of the Lenten Study Challenge:

Halfway!

We are already halfway through the season of Lent. Time flies! This year, we are using the 40 days leading up to Holy Week to begin some new habits of Bible study or strengthening and stretching our existing habits. We know that we will never regret time spent with our Saviour. God will always bless us through it. But maybe you haven’t started the challenge. It’s not too late. If you start today reading one chapter of Mark a day, you will easily finish before Palm Sunday. Small changes will reap huge rewards! And, as a little added incentive and motivation, check out the prize basket for the drawing we will conduct on Palm Sunday. Fill in your Tic-Tac-Toe sheets and put them in the container ASAP

Church Cleaners:

March 10 – Luke // March 17 - Timothy

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (3) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship & Communion
11:45 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore

Tu (5) 5:30 pm "Test the Spirits" Bible Info. Class

We (6) 9:30 am Online Pastors' Circuit Meeting
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship

Th (7) 10:30 am Longfield Manor Devotion
6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (8) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

Su (10) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship

Tu (12) 5:00 pm "Test the Spirits" Bible Info. Class

We (13) **7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship**

Th (14) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (15) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

Su (17) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship & Communion
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore



**Divine Word
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**1081 Greenbank Rd.,
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8
613-825-1629**

www.divinewordottawa.ca