

Jesus Clears the Temple
November 22, 2020
8:00 am



Zion Lutheran Church
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

AS WE GATHER

Our Bible Reading of the Day is John 2:13-22. The cleansing of the temple carries a twofold message. First, the true Lord of the temple was there, in the flesh. He came to purify what others had dirtied with their devotion to the god of currency. But second, and more important, He came as the true temple as well. All the victims for sacrifice, all the blood and flesh burned upon the altar—indeed, the altar and temple themselves—would very soon reach their expiration date, as happened when Jesus expired on the cross, breathing out His Spirit. Unlike every other sacrifice in the past, this Lamb would emerge from the altar ashes and rise from the tomb, the temple of His body flawless, save for the scars. But those wounds are the tokens of our healing, sacred tattoos etched into His hands, feet, and side to testify to the world that this once-destroyed temple has been rebuilt to house our own wounded bodies, perfect them, and raise them up to be like His.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: LSB 850 God of Grace and God of Glory

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

- 3 Cure Your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.

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INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us then come before God and each other and confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: I confess to almighty God our Father that I have sinned by allowing other things to become more important to me than God. I have trusted more in myself, my possessions, my works, and my own desires. I confess that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. Therefore I pray that He come to me in His Word and Spirit to forgive me and enlighten and keep me in the true faith. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God has had mercy on you and has come to you in the person of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For the sake of His death and resurrection for you, God forgives you all your sins and gives you the strength of faith to serve Him in all faithfulness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

THE INTROIT: Psalm 19; Antiphon verse 8

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

People: Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

Pastor: They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

People: Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Pastor: In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,

People: like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

Pastor: It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;

People: nothing is deprived of its warmth.

Pastor: The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

People: The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Pastor: The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

People: The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

People: The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

Pastor: They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

People: they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

Pastor: By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

People: But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

Pastor: Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

People: Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

Pastor: May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart

People: be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

All: 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.

Pastor: The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

People: The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: LSB 933 My Soul Rejoices

- 1 My soul rejoices, My spirit voices—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior Has shown me favor—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, Join in confessing
God, who is solely Mighty and holy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely Shall rest securely
On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

- 2 His arm now baring, His strength declaring—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; The meek exalted.
Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token All that was spoken
To Abr'ham's offspring God is fulfilling—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: Heavenly Father, in Your ancient temple, You were present for Your people Israel and foreshadowed the eternal presence of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that by His sacrifice in the flesh, we would be rescued from greed, idolatry, and all sin, and rise up with Him unto eternal life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

READING OF THE DAY: John 2:13-22

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 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. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

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

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

They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 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.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN: LSB 824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

- 1 May God bestow on us His grace,
 With blessings rich provide us;
And may the brightness of His face
 To life eternal guide us,
That we His saving health may know,
 His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the nations show
 Christ's riches without measure
And unto God convert them.

- 2 Thine over all shall be the praise
 And thanks of ev'ry nation;
And all the world with joy shall raise
 The voice of exultation.
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
 Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
 Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.

- 3 O let the people praise Thy worth,
 In all good works increasing;
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,
 Thy Word is rich in blessing.
May God the Father, God the Son,
 And God the Spirit bless us!
Let all the world praise Him alone,
 Let solemn awe possess us.
Now let our hearts say, "Amen!"

THE SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING HYMN: LSB 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 565 (verses 1-2, 5)

Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ

- 1 Thy works, not mine, O Christ,
Speak gladness to this heart;
They tell me all is done,
They bid my fear depart.
To whom save Thee,
Who canst alone
For sin atone,
Lord, shall I flee?

- 2 Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ,
Can heal my bruised soul;
Thy stripes, not mine, contain
The balm that makes me whole.
To whom save Thee,
Who canst alone
For sin atone,
Lord, shall I flee?
- 5 Thy righteousness, O Christ,
Alone can cover me;
No righteousness avails
Save that which is of Thee.
To whom save Thee,
Who canst alone
For sin atone,
Lord, shall I flee?

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SEND OFF

Pastor: At Zion Lutheran we are committed to reaching out,
strengthening the saved,

All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!