



“Now Faith is being
sure of what we
Hope for
and certain of what we
do not see.” Hebrews 11:1

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

“RITUALS OR THE CROSS”

REV. DR. DENNIS W. PEGORSCH

5PM SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021 & 11AM SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

BLENDDED WORSHIP SERVICE

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, WAUSAU, WI

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FOCUS Do we come to church merely out of a sense of reluctant duty, or is there a sense of purpose, devotion, enthusiasm, and passion? Unfortunately, our attitude may be, at best, a combination of the two. The Word today takes our eyes off ourselves, our mixed motives, our shallow hopes and focuses them on the purpose, enthusiasm, passion, and zeal of God’s saving love. If we are to be saved, God must take the initiative. And He has done so. As He gives us His heart in the Ten Commandments, so He gives us new hearts, baptizing us into the zeal of Christ’s love by which alone He declares us righteous. Connected to Christ’s resurrection, our hope is firmly planted in Him.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

“Awesome God”

Mullins

When He rolls up His sleeves He ain't just “puttin' on the ritz”
Our God is an awesome God
There is thunder in His footsteps and lightning in His fists
Our God is an awesome God
The Lord wasn't joking when He kicked 'em out of Eden
It wasn't for no reason that He shed His blood
His return is very close and so you'd better be believin'
That our God is an awesome God

Chorus: Our God is an awesome God He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom pow'r and love Our God is an awesome God (*Repeat*)

When the sky was starless in the void of the night
Our God is an awesome God
He spoke into the darkness and created the light
Our God is an awesome God
Judgment and wrath He poured out on Sodom
Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross
I hope that we have not too quickly forgotten
That our God is an awesome God (*Chorus*)

Our God is an awesome God. Our God is an awesome God.

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INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

L Today's Psalm, Psalm 19, informs our preparation for worship this morning. It celebrates the glory of God's creation.

PRAISE THE LORD!

Psalm 19:1-6

L The heavens declare the glory of God,
C and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

L Day to day pours out speech,
C and night to night reveals knowledge.

L There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.
C Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

L In them He has set a tent for the sun,
C which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

L Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
C and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

PRAYER

SONG

"Thy Word"

Grant/Smith

Chorus: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, and think I've lost my way, Still You're there right beside me. Nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end. *(Chorus)*
2. I will not forget Your love for me, and yet My heart forever is wandering. Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; I will love You to the end. *(Chorus)*

You're the light unto my path.

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OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 20:1-17

- L** And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- C** **“You shall have no other gods before Me.**
- L** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for
- C** **I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.**
- “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,**
- L** for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.
- C** **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**
- L** Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
- C** **“Honor your father and your mother,**
- L** that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- C** **“You shall not murder.**
- “You shall not commit adultery.**
- “You shall not steal.**
- “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house;**
you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

MUSICAL OFFERING

“This Little Light of Mine”

Childcare Butterfly Room—Video on Screens

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the word of the cross is folly 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, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us, under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE for the CHILDREN

SONG **“Mighty is the Power of the Cross”** *Tomlin/Craig/Reeves*

What can take a dying man, And raise him up to life again?

What can heal a wounded soul, What can make us white as snow?

What can fill the emptiness, What can mend our brokenness, Brokenness?

Chorus: Mighty, awesome, wonderful, Is the holy cross
Where the Lamb laid down His life, To lift us from the fall.
Mighty is the power of the cross.

What restores our faith in God, What reveals the Father's love?

What can lead the wayward home, What can melt a heart of stone?

What can free the guilty ones, What can save and overcome, Overcome? (*Chorus*)

It's a miracle to me, It's a miracle to me,

And it's still a mystery, And it's still a mystery.
It's a miracle to me, The power of God, For those who believe.

Mighty, awesome, wonderful, Is the holy cross
Where the Lamb laid down His life, To lift us from the fall.
Mighty is the power of the cross.

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Confession and Forgiveness

Psalm 19:12-14

L When we use the Ten Commandments and other parts of the moral code as a mirror, we see that we have fallen from the perfection of God's good creation and His perfect Law.

Who can discern his errors?

C **Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**

L Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;

C **let them not have dominion over me!**

L Our gracious Lord has promised full and free forgiveness to all who call out to our heavenly Father in His name. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

C **O God, we confess that we have sinned against You and one another in our thinking, speaking, and acting. Worse, in our fallen nature, we are sinful and unclean, and in the eyes of many we are weak, lowly people. But because You have graciously chosen us and worked faith in our hearts, we humbly ask for mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive, renew, and lead us in paths of righteousness.**

L The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. We preach Christ crucified, and for us the word of the cross is the power of God. 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.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

L Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

C **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

PRAYERS of the CHURCH

L Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for people everywhere in their various circumstances.

Lord over all, we give thanks that the heavens declare Your glory. And we pray Your blessings on all who seek ways to use the resources of Your good creation to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and shelter the homeless. Guide them toward bountiful harvests and life-saving technologies. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L O Lord, who brought Your people Israel out of slavery in Egypt, hear the prayer of those who long for freedom from oppressive regimes, false imprisonment, poverty, and social discrimination. Awaken a desire for peace, justice, and human dignity in the citizens and leaders of the nations. Give them compassionate eyes so that they may seek to help one another, relieving hunger and despair with loving and sharing actions. Guide and protect armed forces deployed and those who work for peace and security in our local communities. Open our eyes to the vocation we have as people of faith each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Wise and loving heavenly Father, who chose those whom the world considered foolish, weak, lowly, and despised to be joined in the Body of Christ, give us Your strength and wisdom. Open doors of opportunity for the Church to preach Christ crucified and risen no matter the form of opposition they encounter, so that many will come to faith. Strengthen clergy and lay leaders to focus not on institutions or statistics but on the righteousness, sanctification, and redemption our Savior won in His gracious sacrifice for us in grace and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L We ask Your gracious answers to the prayers of those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*]. Visit, relieve, console, and uplift them according to Your plans, using us where possible as part of the answer to their petitions. These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION— * *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*

COMMUNION SONG **“The Wonderful Cross”** *Tomlin/Watts/Walt/
Reeves/Mason*

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.

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?

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find. That I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace, Draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find, That I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace Draw near and bless Your name.

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.

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BLESSING

SERMON

“Rituals or the Cross” Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Pegorsch

John 2:16: *“To those who sold doves He said, ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!’”*

I. Although not immediately obvious, these questions are at the heart of Jesus’

_____ in _____ the _____.

A. The _____ is a sign of both _____ and _____.

B. The Christian _____ has been the source of much of what is _____ and humane in the world today.

C. Look at what was _____ that day in the _____.

II. Rather, the _____ were being _____.

III. True religious _____ knows no such kind of

_____.

A. The _____ means that the days of _____ are over.

B. And how will we _____?

CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace and serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

CLOSING SONG

“All of My Days”

Stevens

Proclaim Your awesome power, tell of mighty deeds.

Declare Your future kingdom of everlasting peace.

And my eyes, they look unto You always. And I am captured by Your majesty.

All of my days I will sing of Your greatness. All of my days I will speak of Your grace.

All of my days I will tell of Your wondrous love. Your love in my life. Your love.

All Your works will praise You. Your children bless Your name.

We speak of all your goodness. We walk in fields of grace.

And my eyes, they look unto You always. And I am captured by Your majesty.

All of my days I will sing of Your greatness. All of my days I will speak of Your grace.

All of my days I will tell of Your wondrous love. Your love in my life. Your love.

All of my days I will sing of Your greatness. All of my days I will speak of Your grace.

All of my days I will tell of Your wondrous love. Your love in my life. Your love.

And my eyes, they look unto You always. And I am captured by Your majesty.

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All of my days I will sing of Your greatness. All of my days I will speak of Your grace.

All of my days I will tell of Your wondrous love. Your love in my life. Your love.

Your love in my life. Your love.

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PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Pegorsch, Pastor Emeritus*

LITURGIST: *Rev. Timothy D. Smith, Associate Pastor*

ELDERS: *5pm—Seth Sneider; 11am—Skyler Lynn*

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

BLENDed WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE UPPER SANCTUARY—

5pm Saturday & 11am Sunday

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE UPPER SANCTUARY—

8am & 9:30am Sunday

WORSHIP SCHEDULE—Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month in the Upper Sanctuary. We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*

LARGE PRINT—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex, or you may ask the usher for one.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS—for ages 3-6 years & 7-12 years old, are available on the table in the Narthex.

NURSERY—for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery located near the Narthex will be available for parent use on Sunday mornings. *Please Note: The upper level nursery will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 9:30am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 9:30am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8 School, our Childcare (*infant—13 years*), and through our association with Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School.

RESTROOMS—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.

JOINING TRINITY—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please speak with an elder or pastor, and we will contact you.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To gather people who grow in faith and share Jesus with all.

VISION STATEMENT:

To strive to be a mature and faithful congregation that is focused on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



501 STEWART AVENUE, WAUSAU, WI 54401
CHURCH: 715-842-0769 SCHOOL: 715-848-0166 FAX: 715-843-7278
EMAIL: TRINITY@TRINITYNET.ORG WEB: WWW.TRINITYWAUSAU.ORG

BLENDed WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE UPPER SANCTUARY