

Lent 3

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent (Year B)

The Law of the Lord is perfect and provides a framework for God’s people to live together with him and one another. At the heart of God’s law are the care and protection of his beloved people. These rules for living faithfully were not meant to keep humanity in shackles — on the contrary! They were given to Israel, and all people after them, so that we would have true freedom, peace, and joy.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17

Commandments Given

God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, reminding Israel that he was the one who brought them out of slavery in Egypt and had been their one true God who created and sustained them as a people. He set clear boundaries for his people so that they might thrive as a community of faith and live long lives in his presence.

Psalm 19

The Perfect Law of the Lord

The psalmist proclaimed God’s glory, which can be seen in all the earth. He who gave the gift of language is the one whose voice has been heard to the ends of the world. God’s law is perfect; it revives the soul and enlightens the eyes. His rules are righteous and to be desired over gold.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Wise or Foolish?

St. Paul proclaimed that the Word of the cross of Christ is the very power of God. It is the Word of salvation for those who believe. For those who do not believe, it is foolishness and a stumbling block. The great reversal of the mystery of God’s kingdom is that those who are considered wise by the world are shamed, and those considered foolish are counted as wise by the Lord.

Gospel Lesson: John 2:13-22 (23-25)

Jesus Cleared the Temple

As the Passover festival was nearing, Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem and became very upset with those who were selling animals for sacrifices. He drove them out of the temple with a whip of cords and overturned their tables of commerce.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Purple
- Use the Kyrie. Omit the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles’ Creed.
- Though the Law was given for Israel’s benefit (and for ours today), humanity has never been able to keep God’s law perfectly. Jesus came not to put an end to the law, but to fulfill its requirements for our sake. The law was meant for freedom, but sin entered into the equation and made the law a heavy burden. Christ, through his life, death and resurrection, has freed all believers to live in liberty through him. He fulfills the law that we have never been able to fulfill and grants us new life, here and now and in eternity.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	482	---	425	803	132	132
Built on a Rock	365	---	645	652	91	91
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed	98	---	437	337	143	143
Beneath the Cross of Jesus	107	---	---	338	142	142
Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways	480	---	707	772	235	235
Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved	96	---	945	602	---	---
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me	327	---	761	623	226	226
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	481	---	711	789	205	205
Father, We Thank You	---	704	652	478	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles
- Graves into Gardens
(CCLI# 7138219)
- Your Cross Changes Everything
(CCLI# 7081390)
- God’s Own Fool
(CCLI# 228458)
- Your Word Will Be the Last Word
(CCLI# 4187938)
- Not Ashamed
(CCLI# 3199594)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.