

Events This Week - March 7 - 14, 2021

Pastor Althea's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10am - 1pm

Sunday 3/7 Third Sunday in Lent
10:15 am

Liturgical Worship Service
in the Sanctuary,
Live on YouTube, and FaceBook

11:30 am
Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary
and, if needed, Zoom Meeting

Monday 3/8

9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
7:00 pm - AA Meeting - Social Hall

Tuesday 3/9

9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
6:30 pm - NA

Wednesday 3/10

9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

Thursday 3/11

5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Friday 3/12

10:30 am - Grace Stitches

Saturday 3/13

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS!

Set your Clocks Ahead 🕒🕒

Sunday 3/14 Fourth Sunday in Lent

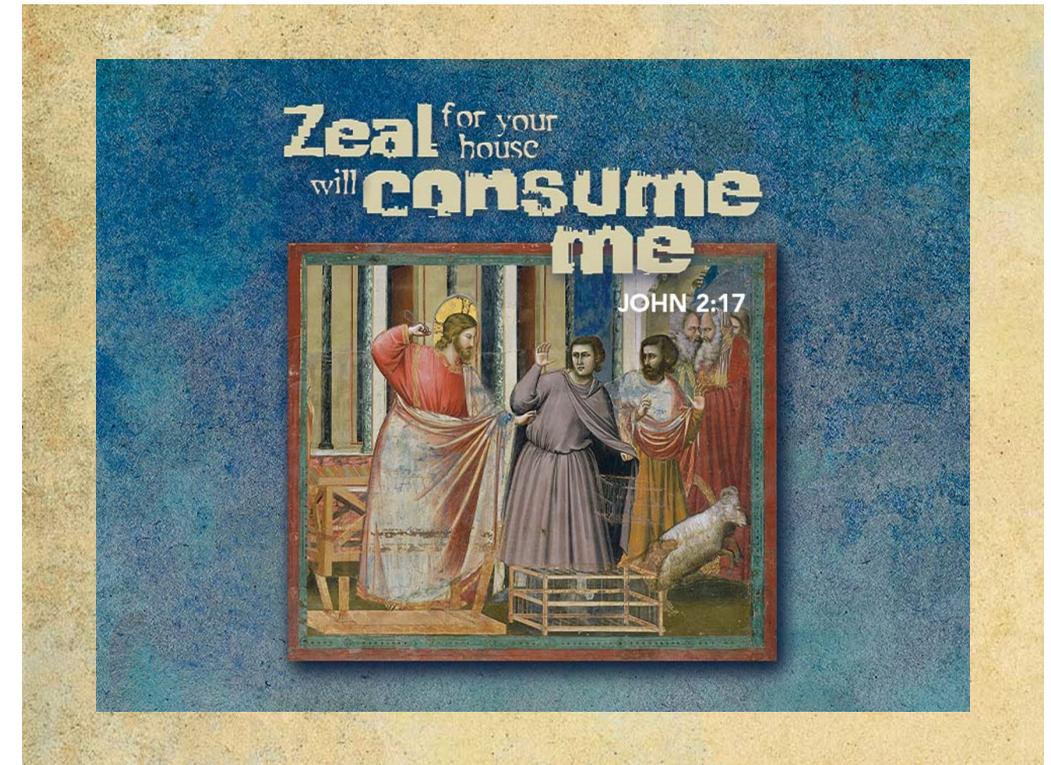
10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service
With Communion
in the Sanctuary

Also:

Live streaming on YouTube & FaceBook

Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021



Grace Lutheran Church

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Office: 609-927-3082 † Fax: 609-927-6672 † Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Alternate web address: www.gracelutheran.xyz
Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.com [castbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.com)

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright

Music Director: Scott J. Breiner

Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

Liturgical Worship Service
10:15 am

Looking Ahead  **Choir Rehearsal** resumes
Thursday's at 5:00 pm.

Support Team Meeting in the Lounge
Tuesday, March 9th at 7:00 pm



SET YOUR CLOCKS

Ahead!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

March 14th!



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

March 14th - Lent 4, Communion
March 21st - Lent 5, Communion
March 28th - Palm Sunday: 10:15 am
April 1st - Maundy Thursday: TBA
April 2nd - Good Friday: TBA
April 4th - Easter Sunday: 10:15 am

Also: Worship service **Live** streamed
on YouTube & FaceBook

Welcome

Welcome to worship at Grace Lutheran Church. Everything you need to fully participate in our liturgical worship is contained in the bulletin.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to **belong** to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who **believe** as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to **become** caring servants of God in the world.

Serving in Worship Today—

Worship Assistant:

Altar Guild:

Brenda Traa, Ruth Traa

Sound Technician:

Jim Foreman, Larry Rusiecki, and
Shawn Welfield

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Servicemen and Servicewomen Serving Our Country: Members & Friends of Grace: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USMC; Sara Myers, USN; Cainan Johnson, USAF

Hospitalized - or in need of healing: Ruth, David, & Ric Alburger, Mary Ellen Bartholomew, June Becker, Shirley Blankenship, Dave Brown, Carol Campbell, Dr. Robert Carlson, Ed Carpenter, Christine Carter, Peg Cwienk, Roy Cole, Deb Connelly, Emile DeLong, Tad Dildilian, Jim Foreman, Kimberly Frawley, Ed Gannon, Jeanne Gehring, Chris Hinnant, Bob & Dona-Lee Hughes, Pat Johnson, Darryl Kashey, Terry Kearney, Carol Traa Keates, Nancy Keirse, Jim Kohl, Darrell Kopp, Judith & Roger Landis, Bob Loper, Susan Marich, Quinn Meldrum, Anne Moore, Tom Ostrander, Tommy Parker, Renee Pugliese, LouAnn Rest, Indigo Rose, Alan Sisson, Dana Sisson, Judy Toth, Bob Traa, Grace DiGenni Traa, Carol-Ann Tracy, Skip Uhrmann, George Walters, Joann Wehrhan, Joan Wisdom, Lucy Dildilian Yannis, & Family and Friends of David Rihl

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Dot Crawshaw, Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Rehab@Shores of Wesley Manor: Lois Rahme

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

SENDING HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW # 324

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Sending**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

***SENDING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Lord God, we are living in difficult times. As we have worshipped with you this day, you have refreshed us with your Word and given us new hope. Send us into the next week as witnesses of your Gospel message, that we may be light for the world, as we continue through this season of Lent. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

May the Almighty God bless you and keep you.

May Christ's mercy and forgiveness remind you to go and sin no more.

May the Spirit guide you and keep you safe from evil in the world.

And finally, may God's love bring you comfort and ✝ give you hope. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory
Music on the next page.

ELW # 324

Please be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE

Rathbun

by David Cherwien

***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in the humbleness of the Lenten season and serve God with kindness!

Thanks be to God!

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

**Please stand as you are able—* Congregation responses in bold print.*

Gathering**WELCOME**

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Rathbun

by Charles Cooke

Please stand as you are able.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

As we come before God this Lent, let us pray together.

Almighty God, you know us from before we are born. You are always with us in our past, present, and future. You know our joys and our flaws. You know our outward successes and our innermost failings.

We come before you now wanting to spend time with you and worship you.

Forgive us when we stray in our relationship with you.

Bring us closer to your Spirit once again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

We confess that we have not always stayed close to you, God.

We do not always trust in your path for our lives.

We do not always follow your call for us.

We let worry and fear consume us.

We do not always treat our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may return to you again and glorify your holy name in all that we say and do. Amen.

God is merciful and just. Christ was crucified and died for us and for all our sins.

As a minister of the church of Christ, I declare to you that God forgives all of your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

God never leaves us or forsakes us.

Return to the Lord your God with a new spirit, ready to accept God's gift of grace. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN**

There in God's Garden

ELW # 342

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. All-Knowing God,

You are Creator of all that is in heaven and on earth. We rejoice that we are able to give back some of our blessings to you. You have changed our lives forever with your mercy and grace. Give us opportunities to change the lives of others with your Gospel message. Bless our congregation, this community, and everything we give back to you to continue your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Pastor: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Leader: There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: Creator God, the heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Guide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to do better when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: All Knowing God, you are wiser than human wisdom. Fill all leaders with your peace and mercy. Grant endurance and fruitful ministry to churches. Defend the vulnerable in and around our community. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Almighty and Everlasting God, your weakness is stronger than human strength.

Today we pray for all who are caught up in depression, anxiety, fear, grief and loss, and for all who are sick. We pray especially for all those whom we name now or in our hearts *especially...* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: The cross of Christ reminds us of your grace, love, and forgiveness for all of us.

Thank you for all the saints whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: O Faithful God, we entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you both spoken and unspoken, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Please be seated

OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns. If you are worshiping with us in person, please place your offering in the plates at the sanctuary entrances.

OFFERTORY

Lift High the Cross arr. by Sue Mitchell Wallace

Congregation, please join for the refrain when invited.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

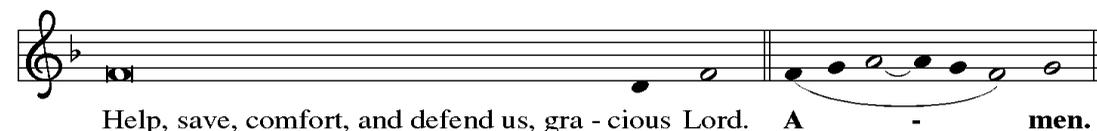
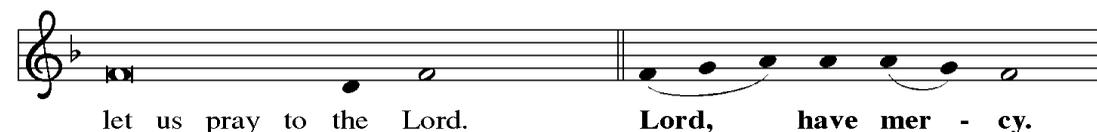
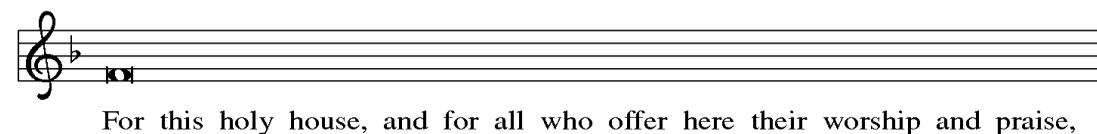
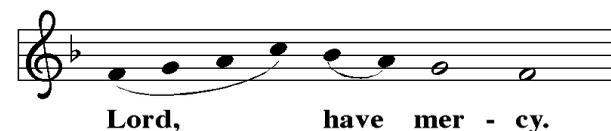
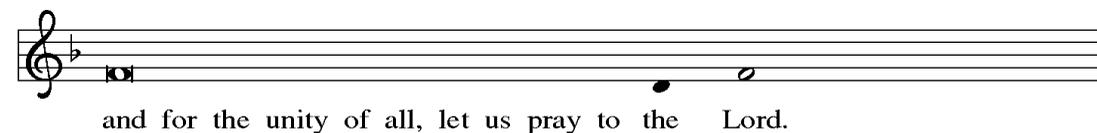
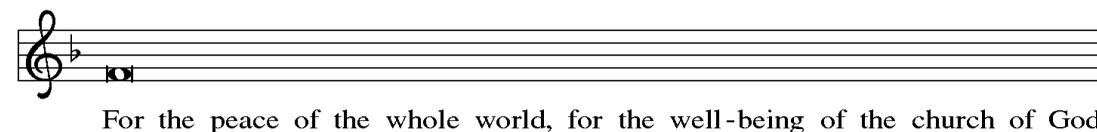
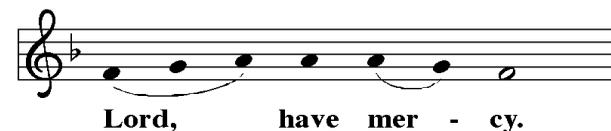
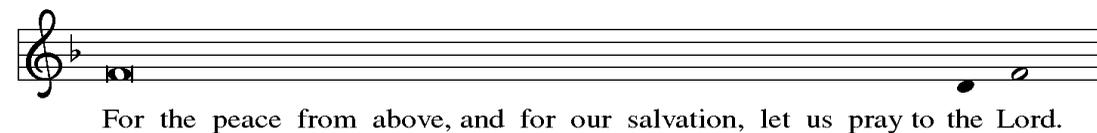
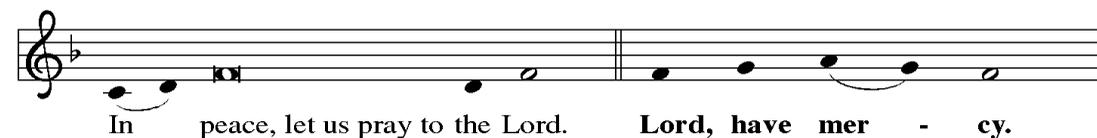
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.... **Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Please be seated

Word

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

Leader: A reading from Exodus

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



PSALM: Psalm 19

- ¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God, / and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.
²**One day tells its tale | to another, / and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**
³Although they have no | words or language, / and their voices | are not heard,
⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,
 where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**
⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
 it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.
⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the
 end of | it again; / nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.**
⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
 the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.
⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;
 the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**
⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
 the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.
¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,
 sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**
¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened, / and in keeping them there is | great reward.
¹²**Who can detect one's | own offenses? / Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**
¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me;
 then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.
¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,
 O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

The **law** of the LORD is *perfect*,
 converting the soul: the
 testimony of the **LORD** is **SURE**,
 making **WISE** the simple.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Leader: A reading from First Corinthians.

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where 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? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright