



Perley Lutheran Parish  
March 7th, 2021  
Third Sunday in Lent



Gathering Spoken Hymn: In the Cross of Christ, I Glory  
In the cross of Christ I glory, Towering over the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

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

### Welcome and Announcements

- Pastor Michele spending the day with her family so thank you to everyone who is helping with the service this morning.
- Annual Meetings have concluded for both congregations and both went well
- Lenten Services at 7 at Kirkebo this week.
- Please continue to support the congregations financially – hard with not being together for so long to keep on top of everything so offering can be brought in person, done on-line or mailed into the office.
- Reach out to Pastor or the church office if you need anything
- Food Shelf open Thursdays from 5-7 at Kirkebo in Perley

### Confession and Forgiveness

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. Fountain of living water,

C **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

L Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, our sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. Amen.

Prayer of the Day: **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 forever.**

Psalm 19 (read responsively)

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. **Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.** There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; **yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to**

**the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,** which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.** The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; **the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;** the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. **More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.** Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. **But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.** Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You 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. You 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, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But 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. For 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. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. 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 male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Holy Gospel according to John 2:13-22 **Glory to you O Lord**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making 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. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After 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 our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message – Micayla & Noah Christensen

Props: Broom; paper towels; window cleaner; mop – sitting out in a pile by them

Noah: Oh no..... mops, brooms, and window cleaner???

Micayla: Yep, it's that time

Noah: I hate when it's time to clean the house.

Micayla: I know but mom's been really busy so I thought we could all help her out.

Noah: But the house isn't that messy.

Micayla: Noah, we dropped that Kool-aid on the floor and when you walk through the kitchen and it's still sticky in that spot we need to mop the floor.

Noah: Alright, how about your room then – when mom comes into your room to wake you up and she can't find you in all of the mess it's time to clean, right??

Micayla: I can't help that I like to have my clothes out where I can see them.

Noah: Micayla you have more clothes out on your bed and floor than you do in the closet.

Micayla: All right – I'll clean that up. But what about you and the legos everywhere you look. They are supposed to be in your room not all over the living room.

Noah: You got me – I guess I'll be busy too.

Micayla: I think we both get the idea! Our gospel story today tells us about a time Jesus did some house cleaning. It was time for the annual Passover celebration, so Jesus traveled to Jerusalem.

Noah: When He went to the temple, He couldn't believe what He saw. People were selling cattle, sheep, and doves to be used as sacrifices in the temple. Some men were even charging people to change their money so they could pay their temple taxes. It looked more like a flea market than a place to worship God.

Micayla: Jesus was so angry that He made a whip from rope, and drove the cattle, sheep, and those who were selling them out of the temple. He also turned over the money changers' tables. To the ones who were selling the doves, He said, "Get out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market." Jesus did some serious house cleaning that day!

Noah: Jesus cleaned the temple but there is also some other cleaning that needs to be done. The Bible tells us that we are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in us. Now during Lent it is a good time for us to think about how our hearts might need cleaning too.

Micayla: Let's pray: God, help us to remember that we are Your temple and that Your Spirit lives in us. Help us to keep our lives clean and useful for service to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Message

Good morning!

I want you to take a minute and think about your coming to church this morning – for those online think about the last time you came to this church or another church. What did you notice when you drove up – did you notice the stained glass windows? Did you take a good look at the cross on the top of the steeple? How about when you walked into the church – did you notice the place to hang your coat? Did you see where you would eventually sit? OR have you become so comfortable and familiar with the church building that you look at them and give them really little thought? While of course we all want to be comfortable in church we sometimes get too comfortable and gloss over the important parts of church.

Our Gospel this morning warns us against complacency – that getting too comfortable and forgetting what's important. We can forget sometimes that this is our Father's house – not ours – and that we should be coming here to do what he pleases not what pleases ourselves. It's on us to drive out all those distractions, not allow ourselves to go through the motions and give ourselves and our listening ears to the promises Jesus made for us.

In the synoptic Gospels – that's Matthew, Mark and Luke – Jesus begins his ministry, his call to teach and preach really quite secretly and lowly. Jesus gathers a few disciples in the beginning and starts teaching Galilee away from all the prestigious and controlling religious leaders of the times. The story today – Jesus cleaning out the temple – doesn't take place until the last week of his ministry. In this Gospel – John's account of things – Jesus proclaims that he is the Son of God; speaks with authority and acts with God authority as well. Jesus had come to bring us the kingdom of God and that's exactly what he declares this day in the temple.

The temple stood up high on Mount Zion – shining in the sun was the marble and the gold that dazzled brilliantly for all to see from as far as they could see. When the temple was built the Jews saw it as the presence of God filled with God's glory. It didn't matter if they were near or far, the Jews knew the temple was there and that drew comfort for them. They believed God was there and the temple stood for God being near.

Jesus comes to the temple and basically declares that HE is the temple. He is the place where heaven and the earth meet. Jesus was bringing in a new way, a new understanding of what God's presence meant. It wasn't about a building, it was about walking with Jesus and therefore being in God's presence. We all have those moments in our life where we lose sight of Jesus and miss the sense of God's presence in our lives. But that doesn't mean that we are alone or that Jesus has left us – we just can't see him. We live in this new age and understanding – a new way of knowing Jesus is with us in the person of the Holy Spirit.

This of course was not the way of the world at the time of our Gospel – if people wanted to touch and feel God's presence in those times they believed they had to do so at the temple. We don't have to travel to a temple – or a church – to walk with Jesus. We have a relationship with Jesus and it's not about a place or a space but rather about faith and trust in Him. Being a Christian, having a Christian life is much more than just what we believe and definitely more than just going through the motions.

To nurture our faith we have to nurture our relationship with Jesus. We need to spend time with God and do things with and for him. The more time we spend in relationship with God the more we begin to take on the characteristics and image of God. We begin to be molded and shaped into God's image and plan.

Life – our Christian lives today – aren't about the church building, they weren't about the temple back then or the mountain. Our lives as Christians are about our relationships with God. Our walking and living in relation with Him and knowing and being secure in the knowledge that God is with us always. Our words and our actions become the expressions of our own faith. We love because God loves us. We are blessed and therefore we should be a blessing to others.

When we know and we rely on God's presence in our lives. When we accept and live in relationship with God. When we are able to love our lives for God but also for others then we are also able to walk in grace and thankfulness and praise. Our place is secure in God's family.

We clearly haven't turned out worship space, our sacred place into a marketplace as they did in our Gospel. We have however at times perhaps treated it more like a comfy gathering space – one that may be so familiar and comfortable that we forget what is important. We need to remember that we come – together as the family of God – to worship our God and Lord. What's important for us in this place and in our hearts is to worship our God and gain a stronger relationship with God.

Some might say that Jesus had a right to get upset at what was being done at the temple, what was being forgotten at the temple, should have been overlooked because at least there were people coming to the temple. That however isn't what was important – it was the fact that those that were there were just going through the motions. Do we look at communion as simply a shield that comes to protect us from the sins that we continue to commit? Can we assume that our offering to our church provides us an added bonus in God's love and protection? Of course not.

Jesus continues to give us signs of his grace even when we really only deserve signs of judgement. Jesus gave his body and his blood for our forgiveness and to ensure that we are loved as children of God. Rely on those promises. Know that this is what the Father's house is all about – not the place or the space but the relationship we have in and with him is our true home.

Whether it's the baptismal font, or the altar or the music and words that you hear in the church, those things will remind us of God's house but it's not just about the walls and building. It's all about the Father's house and who is present with you. We may not be able to see Jesus in this place, but he is here in his Father's house. Drive out all those distractions, stop going through the motions and give your ear to listen and your life to believe in the promises that Jesus made. Amen.

Spoken Hymn of the Day: Restore in Us, O God

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;  
Renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

O Spirit wake in us the wonder of your power;  
From fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flower.

Apostles Creed

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

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

Prayers of the people: (Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**)

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

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing besides you. Guide our church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering. You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interest. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

For those who walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, Margie and Marlis, Sonya and Terry, Mike and Jeff, Kirk and Arlis, Jordyn, Evonne and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts..... Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

And gathered as one let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us,  
***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. 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***

Announcement reminders:

Wednesday night Lenten service at 7pm at Kirkebo and streamed on-line.

Reach out if you need anything.

Benediction:

**We are what God made us to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve our neighbors. God, bless us that we may be a blessing to others the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. Amen.**

Closing Spoken Hymn: How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds, they hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!

But when I think that God his Son not sparing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in.  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin;  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!

Dismissal: Go in Peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

**Mark Your Calendars:** *(All services are streamed on-line as well as in –person)*

Wednesday, March 10th – Lenten Service at 7pm –Kirkebo (no meal served)

Sunday, March 14th – Service at 9am at Kirkebo

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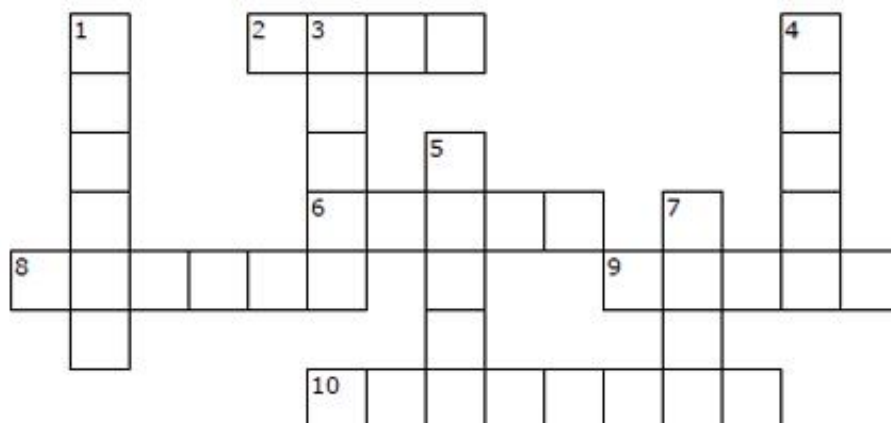


Cleansing the Temple

# Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)



## ACROSS

2. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle
6. An animal raised for its wool
8. A building dedicated to the worship of God
9. Coins or bills used to pay for something
10. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt

## DOWN

1. A place where people gather to buy and sell things
3. A building where a family lives
4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs
5. The Son of God
7. A small, wild pigeon

WHIP	MARKET	PASSOVER	SHEEP	TEMPLE
HOUSE	TABLE	MONEY	JESUS	DOVE

# Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)



C W C M C P A S S O V E R U N  
 H F O B A Y D M O N E Y J A V  
 A F U F T R K Y G E Q H K M S  
 N O R G T P K I F F F G E G C  
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 P E K O T J X S C H F X H W D  
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 W D I I P E H O U S E G P I Z  
 N S D R S C D U C O R D S M S  
 K V C X C H N A T I M E E G G

DROVE  
 TEMPLE  
 TIME  
 SELLING

SCATTERED  
 COURTS  
 MARKET  
 HOUSE

JERUSALEM  
 DOVES  
 CHANGERS  
 TABLES

PASSOVER  
 SHEEP  
 JEWISH  
 WHIP

SITTING  
 CATTLE  
 MONEY  
 CORDS

# Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.  
Answers can be found in John 2:13-16 (NIV)



- \_\_\_ 1. The Son of God  
A. Jerusalem B. Passover C. Dove D. Jesus
- \_\_\_ 2. A place where people gather to buy and sell things  
A. temple B. house C. market D. court
- \_\_\_ 3. A small, wild pigeon  
A. cattle B. sheep C. dove D. chicken
- \_\_\_ 4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs  
A. table B. chair C. whip D. bed
- \_\_\_ 5. Coins or bills used to pay for something  
A. money B. cattle C. sheep D. dove
- \_\_\_ 6. A building dedicated to the worship of God  
A. temple B. market C. table D. courts
- \_\_\_ 7. An animal raised for its wool  
A. dove B. cattle C. whip D. sheep
- \_\_\_ 8. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle  
A. table B. whip C. money D. dove
- \_\_\_ 9. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt  
A. Christmas B. Easter C. Passover D. Thanksgiving
- \_\_\_ 10. A building where a family lives  
A. market B. house C. temple D. tent