

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)

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**Sunday, March 4, 2018
Third Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion**

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.



**Let your guard down,
Let God in,
Be among friends**

WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning. We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

Registry: Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

Worship: This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus' body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

. . . WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Ministers:	The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Adam and Holly Leising
Accompanist:	Sheryl Harmeyer
Acolytes:	Emma Belter and Madelyn Bohman
Assisting Minister:	Mary Lou Krieger
Reader:	Andrea Westerfeld
Communion Assistant:	Gene Krieger
Sound System:	Sarah Bohman
Offering Counters:	Les Kessens and Dennis Westerfeld
Altar Committee:	Gary Westerfeld

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Merciful God,
you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.
We confess that we have strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.
We fail in love, neglect justice,
and ignore your truth.
Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.
Create in us clean hearts
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Behold, now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of salvation.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG:

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.

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

ELW p. 138

A Kyrie may be spoken in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

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.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

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.

A reading from the twentieth chapter of Exodus.

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.**

PSALM: Psalm 19

The psalm is read responsively by verse.

¹The heavens declare the glory 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.

⁶It 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 revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures 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 servant 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
acceptabl| in your sight, O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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.

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Corinthians.

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.

The assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142

**♪Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,**

and abounding in steadfast love.

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.

The holy gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

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 catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Lead us faithfully in the way of the cross. Unite us as one body in Christ. Empower us with courage to speak out against injustice and greed, demonstrating with our words and bodies the love of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. For sheep, cattle, and all domesticated livestock. For wild creatures, service animals, and pets. Provide shelter, food, and safe drinking water for every living creature. Protect the earth from disaster and harm. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Teach us to honor one another as you command. Protect refugees and immigrants fleeing from their homes in search of safety and freedom. Guide lawmakers, peacekeepers, and all who work toward reconciliation and justice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For those who lack what they need for daily life. For people whose lives are consumed by their possessions. For those who grieve, and for all who are ill, especially those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and all those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and for their families, sponsors, and faith mentors. For Bible study leaders and participants. For our elders in thanksgiving for the depth of wisdom and experience they offer. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We remember with gratitude those who have gone before us. Inspire us by their witness and example. Bring us with them into the joy of eternal life with you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING SONG: *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 186

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.

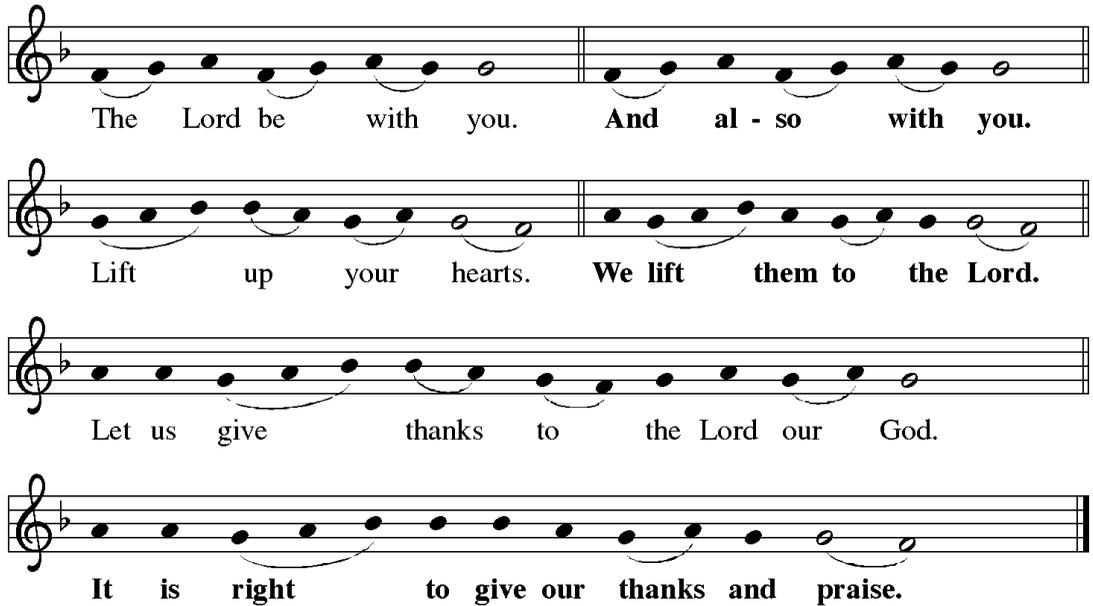
Let us pray together.

Merciful God,
receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

ELW p. 144

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 146

**♪Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands and the presiding minister may say:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION:

Now Behold the Lamb

ELW 341

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.

Let us pray.



1 Now be - hold the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God, who
2 Ho - ly is the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Why
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Be -



bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre - cious Lamb of God.
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre - cious Lamb of God.
cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre - cious Lamb of God.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessings.

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and give you † peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

ELW 705

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may address the assembly.

Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We remember in Prayer:

Don Davis Marilyn Gausman Wanita Linkel
Mikayla Siebert Todd Siebert
Art and Karen Salvitti Dan and Sarajane Wilson

Melinda Wilson (wife of Ben Wilson)
Louis Scheele (John and Kathy W.'s neighbor)
Brody and Benson Coy (infant friends of the Nicholsons)
John Ward (Eunice Sisson's brother-in-law)
Ruth Booster (wife of former pastor)
Ruth Hunger (Ellen Siebert's mother)
Marie Dierckman (Ginny Low's mother)
Melody Briner (Marilyn Gausman's daughter)
Barry Norman (Lisa Gausman's former principal)
Kevin Berning (relative of Paul and Marilyn Gausman)
Louise Eads (Michelle Wehr's grandmother)
Garrett (Aaron Nicholson's friend)
Bonnie Haughn (Sabrina Salvitti Haughn's mother-in-law)
Leonard (husband of Lisa Gausman's friend)
George Lerosé (Art Salvitti's brother-in-law)
Tessa Mayer (wife of Wanda Siebert's principal)
Ronnie Nicholson (Darrell's brother)
Carol Rayve and Ron Price (Karen Salvitti's mother and friend)
Ted Rayve (Karen Salvitti's brother)
Beverly Richardson (Laura Nicholson's mother)
Kristina Salvitti (Art's daughter)
Gary Schopmeyer (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
Charlie Seibert (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
Marlin and Julia Siebert
Jasmine Westerfeld (Sharon Brown's great-granddaughter)

anyone affected by natural disasters, warfare and violence
all who serve in the military

Honored Members:

Paul Gausman Allen and Mary Lou Narwold Bill Westerfeld

Our members at St. Andrew's: Julia Siebert Ruth Thackery

Our Partner Churches: Salvadoran Lutheran Synod and St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Brookville

Today:

We gather to “remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8, NRSV), thanking God for the gift of rest. **Welcome!**

Quarter Auction is **today**. Doors open at 1pm and auction begins at 2pm. Details on the bulletin board and in the March Exemplar. Plan to attend for some fun, fellowship, food, and bidding on your favorite goodies! All proceeds go the DLYO Houston trip.

St. John Huntersville is hosting a **Spud, Soup and Salad Luncheon** today from 11 am – 1 pm. See the bulletin board for more information.

This Week:

Office Hours – Monday	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Thursday	1:00 – 4:00 PM
Pr. Creighton’s office hours –	
Monday – Thursday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Monday –	
Church Council meeting	6:30 PM
M’rita Moms	6:30 PM

Tuesday –

SEIC Clergy meeting	10:00 AM
Wednesday –	
2 nd Year Confirmation class	6:30 – 8:00 PM
Choir practice	7:30 PM
Thursday -	
Midweek Lenten service	6:30 PM
Sunday -	
Sunday School	9:00 AM
Worship	10:00 AM
Basement in use	12:00 – 5:00 PM

Upcoming Events / Announcements:

We are in need of volunteers to prepare the **Altar for Sunday morning worship services**. You may sign up for single Sundays or a whole month. The time required is very minimal. Please consider serving in this ministry at St. Paul.

The Food Pantry has begun collecting extra food for the **Easter Holiday baskets**. They are requesting stuffing, boxed potatoes, frosting, cake mix, and canned fruit, as well as personal care items such as shampoo, deodorant, and toilet tissue. They thank all of you who have been so supportive of the pantry. The clients truly appreciate your helping them and their families!

Susan Narwold delivered 57 ¾ pounds of soup to the **food pantry** this week. Only 192.25 pounds to go.

Signup sheets are on the table in the hallway for the **Chicken and Beef Supper**. Donations and helpers are needed.

Morris Volunteer Fire department is hosting their annual **breakfast** on March 11th. Serving time is 7am thru 1 pm. Freewill offering.

The SEI Conference Assembly is March 17th. We have been asked to help with the food. We need breakfast items: coffeecakes, muffins and fruit salad. There is a sign-up sheet on bulletin board. All items need to be at church by 8 am Sat March 17th.

**“For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”
Ephesians 2:8**

Fundraisers - Houston 2018:

Gas2Go: (DLYO)

Drop your spare change into the gas can on the table by the water fountain. All monies will be used for transportation.

Sponsor a Mile: (DLYO)

It's 2106 miles to Houston and back. We have estimated \$2.05 per mile. Sponsor some miles for the group. So far, we've raised 15 MILES!!

We are also selling stock in our youth in January. You can purchase shares at \$10 per share. Please see any DLYO member for an order form!

Mark your calendars because we have more!

- Cookbooks are coming!!

Clearing a Path to Worship

In the gospel for today, Jesus discovers that the temple has been turned from a place of worship into a marketplace. The predominance of the selling of animals and the exchanging of money for profit overshadow what



is supposed to be the main activity in the temple, worshiping God. The vendors and moneychangers seem to be more interested in serving their own interests and greedily filling their purses with coins than in serving God and God's people. Instead of helping people worship God, they are getting in the way. The commercialization of worship means that those who cannot afford the costs are unable to offer their worship to God, and money becomes a god more valued than the God to whom the temple was dedicated.

Jesus finds this situation unacceptable. The first commandment clearly states, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exod. 20:3). Jesus will not allow anything, especially money, to be given more devotion than God. In addition, Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was to take away the barriers between humans and God, so that all people might be reconciled to God through him.

John's gospel is unique among the four gospels in that it places the story of Jesus clearing the temple at the beginning, rather than the end, of Jesus' ministry. This placement shows how John's gospel emphasizes that Jesus has come to replace the temple. No longer will God's presence be confined to a place, the temple, but instead, God's presence is now embodied in the person of Jesus. Jesus welcomes all to him, and erects no barriers or limits on who can be his follower.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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