

And He *began* telling this parable: “A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, ‘Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?’ And he answered and said to him, ‘Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, *fine*; but if not, cut it down.’”

Response: *Praise to You, O Christ* page 83

You may be seated.

SERMON: Pastor Steve Bang

“Our View of God” Luke 13:

Hymn, *Jesus, the Very Thought of You*..... LBW #316

Please stand.

Nicene Creed page 84

Prayer

Sharing of the Peace.

You may be seated.

Offering

Please stand.

Offertory, *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* page 86

Prayer..... page 87

The Great Thanksgiving page 88

The Lord’s Prayer page 91

You may be seated.

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pre Communion, *Lamb of God* page 92

Communion Hymns, Grey Hymn Book #s 51, 108, 161

Please stand.

Post Communion, *Thank the Lord* page 92

Prayer page 94

Benediction page 95

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Closing Hymn, *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* LBW #230

Postlude

Pastor: Rev. Steve Bang

Organist: Ruth Sheldon

Usher: Gene Fjeld

Acolyte: Easton Jacobs

Lectionary: Lori Jacobs

Third Sunday in Lent

11 a.m., February 28, 2016

West Prairie Lutheran Church, LCMC

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting

Please stand if you are able.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 77

Opening Hymn, *Let the Whole Creation Cry* LBW #242

Kyrie page 78

Hymn of Praise, *This is the Feast* page 81

Prayer of the Day

All: **Eternal Lord, Your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son. Help us to hear Your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of Your redeeming love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

You may be seated.

GREETING FROM THE GIDEON MINISTRYJerry Fjeld

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-20

“Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me. When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life.

“Now as for you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus you have spoken, saying, “Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we are rotting away in them; how then can we survive?”’ Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?’ And you, son of man, say to your fellow citizens, ‘The righteousness of a righteous man will not deliver him in the day of his transgression, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he will not stumble because of it in the day when he turns from his wickedness; whereas a righteous man will not be able to live by his righteousness on the day when he commits sin.’ When I say to the righteous he will surely live, and he so trusts in his righteousness that he commits iniquity-”

uity, none of his righteous deeds will be remembered; but in that same iniquity of his which he has committed he will die. But when I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and he turns from his sin and practices justice and righteousness, *if a* wicked man restores a pledge, pays back what he has taken by robbery, walks by the statutes which ensure life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of his sins that he has committed will be remembered against him. He has practiced justice and righteousness; he shall surely live.

"Yet your fellow citizens say, 'The way of the Lord is not right,' when it is their own way that is not right. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, then he shall die in it. But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and practices justice and righteousness, he will live by them. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

Psalm 85(responsively)

Prayer for God's Mercy upon the Nation.

L: O LORD, You showed favor to Your land;

C: You restored the captivity of Jacob.

L: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

C: You covered all their sin. Selah.

L: You withdrew all Your fury;

C: You turned away from Your burning anger.

L: Restore us, O God of our salvation,

C: And cause Your indignation toward us to cease.

L: Will You be angry with us forever?

C: Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

L: Will You not Yourself revive us again,

C: That Your people may rejoice in You?

L: Show us Your lovingkindness, O LORD,

C: And grant us Your salvation.

L: I will hear what God the LORD will say;

C: For He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones; but let them not turn back to folly.

L: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C: That glory may dwell in our land.

L: Lovingkindness and truth have met together;

C: Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

L: Truth springs from the earth,

C: And righteousness looks down from heaven.

L: Indeed, the LORD will give what is good,

C: And our land will yield its produce.

L: Righteousness will go before Him

C: And will make His footsteps into a way.

SECOND LESSON: I Corinthians 10:1-13

Avoid Israel's Mistakes

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Please stand.

Alleluia page 83

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 13:1-9

Response: *Glory to You, O Lord*..... page 83

Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were *greater* sinners than all *other* Galileans because they suffered this *fate*? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were *worse* culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

7 p.m. Youth Group

Wednesday, March 2

1:30—6:30 p.m. Stop Hunger food packaging @ Waldorf College Atrium

3 p.m. Confirmation Class

6 p.m. Soup Supper @ West Prairie

7:15 p.m. Lenten Worship @ West Prairie

Thursday, March 3

7 p.m. Sarah Circle with Irene Eide; Naomi Circle with Lori Jacobs

Next Sunday, March 6

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service

7 p.m. Youth Group

Thanks to Jerry Fjeld, Gideon speaker today. Special offering is for the Gideon Ministry.

Funeral Service for Pastor Kirk Wilkie will be held Friday, March 4, 11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Clear Lake. A lunch will follow. Condolences may be sent to the family C/O Zion Lutheran Church, 112 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, IA 50428.

The 10th Annual, Stop Hunger food packaging event will be held Wednesday, March 2 beginning at 1:30 until 6:30 p.m. in the Waldorf College Atrium. Volunteers, working in one-hour shifts, are needed to package food. Working with Outreach, Inc., the food packages of rice casseroles will be sent to Tanzania. To sign up, please contact Pott VanAuken at 581-4138 or Amanda Aberle at 585-8726. Financial donations are welcome. Waldorf College and Immanuel Lutheran Church are sponsoring the event.

Prayer List—Family of Pastor Kirk Wilkie; Shirley Hanson, Kylie Holst, Marlas Reimann, Barb Miller, Angela Haugen, Marlys Haugen, Mike Haack, Roger Peterson, Dale Zingg, Dorothy Kall, Ben Charlson, Monte Branstad, Gladys Olson, Blanche Durby, Eldora Reil. All prayer requests can be submitted to: www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer; leave message on church answering system @641-567-3733; or called in to Pastor Steve @ 641-590-7894.

SERMON NOTES

“Our View of God” - Luke 13:1-9

1. The hardest question a pastor might face is: “Why did _____ let this happen?”
2. Jesus does not equate individual sin to suffering. But he does equate suffering to our sinful _____, to a sinful world in which we live.
3. If you look at the call of Moses to deliver God’s people, you see a kind, compassionate God who cares for His people, who doesn’t want to see His people _____ anymore.
4. God is a loving, caring, merciful God. He is so consumed by these characteristics that He sent His Son to die so people would not be _____ from Him any longer.
5. If people can look at God and only see _____, they must not see the cross.
6. It is our _____ to choose, it is our _____ to live lives as we choose that brought the consequences of brokenness into the world.
7. Instead of building a _____ between us and God in the time of brokenness, we should be tearing down the wall that separates us from God.
8. Our response to God when we encounter the brokenness of the world is not to blame Him, but to come to Him in _____, as He waits for us.
9. It is not how we die that it important, but how we _____.
10. “Why did God let this happen?” was the opening question today... The closing answer is: So that we will come to Christ _____.