

*For the week of the Third Sunday in Lent
March 3rd through March 9th, 2023*

Notes for the Week — “The Word of the Cross” 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

I often hear people argue that we as Christians should not be offensive. However, I fear sometimes we lose sight of the difference between being offensive and causing offense. The truth of the matter is, when we faithfully proclaim God’s Word, even the cross of Christ, we cannot avoid offending people.

Paul calls the message we are given ‘folly’ and ‘a stumbling block’ to those who refuse to receive it. “God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.” The only person we should be concerned about not offending is God Himself. The way we avoid offending God is by seeking to be as faithful as we can: in our witnessing, in our discipling, in educating, in our fellowship, etc.

And the reason we concern ourselves with not offending God is precisely because the word that we share is an affront to the world. On account of our faith, we receive the word of the cross, the forgiveness of sins, and give thanks to God for it. However, someone without faith hears, “Jesus died for you,” and the most mild among them think, “I did not ask Him to die for me.” Stronger responses start thinking, “I have no sin for which He needed to die,” and then continue on to outright hostility to God.

Consider even the Christians you know, even you yourself. When someone comes and accuses you of a wrong, how hard it is to hear and receive that word without getting defensive. I know personally it often takes some time for that word to work past my defenses and down to my heart for me to be convicted. Now, to tell someone who isn’t Christian that their sin is so bad that they are heading to hell and unable to do anything about it so that it requires God Himself to right their wrong...they are going to take issue with that word.

All that said, it is important how we share that word. Knowing that the word we bring is offensive, we do take care not to speak it offensively. Our hope is for that word to work past their defenses and down into their heart that they might be convicted and seek salvation in the only place it is found: Christ and His cross. Our motivation is love; not anger, not spite, not judgement, not condemnation, nor anything else.

Our hope is Jesus, to share Him will all those who do not yet know Him, and so we have to be willing to accept that His Word will offend people. Otherwise, we are not sharing the true Jesus, the One in whom there is forgiveness and life alone.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

VERSE: JOHN 2:19

“Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

PSALM 19 and/or the appointed daily psalms.

Prayer on the Psalm

Lord Jesus, You are the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings. Enlighten our darkened understanding by Your Holy Word. Enkindle our hearts and mold our will to walk in faith, love, and hope according to Your gracious will. Let the light of Your Gospel shine on the nations that sit in darkness, and preserve Your Church to the day of Your coming. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	1, 2	5, 6	8	10	13, 14, 15	18	20, 21	23, 24
Evening	3, 4	7	9	11, 12	16, 17	19	22	25

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

	Bible Narrative for the Week	Second Reading
Sunday	John 2:13–25	Eph. 2:1-10
Monday	Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin—Mark 14:53–72	
Tuesday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—Mark 15:1–15	
Wednesday		
Thursday	The King of the Jews Is Mocked—Mark 15:16–32	
Friday	Jesus’ Death and Burial—Mark 15:33–47	
Saturday	Num. 21:4–9	

The Catechism: The Table of Duties

Of Civil Government	
Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.	First Grade +
Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.	Second Grade +
For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.	Third Grade +
For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.	

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

Collect of the Week

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Congregation: *Gene & Stephanie Beauchamp; Larry & Marlene Bender; Ronald & Sherri Berr; Kenneth & Juanita Brecht; Dave & Connie Breidenbach; Olivia & Todd Browning*
Baptismal Birthdays *Jessica Lee; CJ Smith; Ginger Davis; Mark Falls; Brian Luft; Graham Smith*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Jon & Linda Davis*

Members of the congregation: *Alan Barazza; Deena Rogers; Thresa Scarberry; Doris King*

Friends of the congregation: *Tom Corcoran; Ian; Brooks; those affect by the Texas & Oklahoma wildfires*

Our Circuit:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett; Vacant

Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar; Vacant

Our District Staff and President, *Rev. Justin Panzer.*

Jim Bradshaw, Education and Youth

Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant

Our Synod and President, *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

Our Community: *City of Ottawa; Ottawa University; Neosho Community*

Our State and Governor, *Laura Kelly*

Our Nation and President, *Joseph Biden*

LORD'S PRAYER

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

—or—

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

- 1 May God bestow on us His grace,
With blessings rich provide us;
And may the brightness of His face
To life eternal guide us,
That we His saving health may know,
His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the nations show
Christ's riches without measure
And unto God convert them.
- 2 Thine over all shall be the praise
And thanks of ev'ry nation;
And all the world with joy shall raise
The voice of exultation.
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.

- △ 3 O let the people praise Thy worth,
In all good works increasing;
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,
Thy Word is rich in blessing.
May God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit bless us!
Let all the world praise Him alone,
Let solemn awe possess us.
Now let our hearts say, "Amen!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to "The Fourth Sunday in Lent"

March 10, 2024

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 | 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 | John 2:13-22 (23-25)

The people sinned by speaking "against God and against Moses," and the Lord called them to repentance by sending fiery serpents, which "bit the people, so that many people of Israel died" (Num. 21:4–6). When the people confessed their sin, the Lord provided a means of rescue from death. He instructed Moses to "make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole," so that "if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live" (Num. 21:8–9). Thus, God sent His Son into the world, in the likeness of our sin and death, and lifted Him up on the pole of the cross, that whoever looks to Him in faith "may have eternal life" (John 3:14–16). By His cross, "the light has come into the world," not for condemnation, but "that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17–19). While we "were dead in the trespasses and sins" in which we once lived (Eph. 2:1), God loved us, calling us to repentance and raising us up with Christ to live "with him in the heavenly places" (Eph. 2:4–6).

