

WRESTLE NOW

† *Soli Deo Gloria* †

“Truth Be Told”

Duet

Opening Hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” LSB 425

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

† PREPARATION †

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION

From 1 John 1:8-9 and John 20:19-23.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Lent Anthem “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422

**On my heart im-print Your im-age,
Bless-ed Je-sus, King of grace,
That life’s rich-es, cares, and plea-sures
Nev-er may Your work e-race;
Let the clear in-scrip-tion be:
Je-sus, cru-ci-fied for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foun-da-tion,
And my glo-ry and sal-va-tion!**

† **WORD** †

THE SALUTATION AND THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may

assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 32:24-32

²⁴And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. ³²Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

ROMANS 9:6-13

⁶But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁰And not only so, but also when

Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call— ¹²she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENTEN VERSE

P 157

All **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.**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 5:21-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

C **Glo-ry to You, O Lord.**

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you

to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN "LORD, THEE I LOVE WITH ALL MY HEART" LSB 708

1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercy cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share.
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.

And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.
 Thou art the portion I have sought;
 Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and
Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

- 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
 In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify Thy lavish grace
 And help and serve my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile;
Let Satan not my soul defile.
 Give strength and patience unto me
 To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and
Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.
- 3 Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
 That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
 Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
 O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
 My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

SERMON

“WRESTLE NOW”

PASTOR REDEKER

ANTHEM

“Create In Me”

p 192

**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 Thy pres-ence,
 And take not Thy ho-ly Spir-it from me.
 Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy Sal-va-tion,
 and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.**

OFFERING**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH****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.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be
 gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give
 you peace.
C **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“LEAD ME, GUIDE ME”

LSB 721

ref Lead me, guide me, along the way;
 For if You lead me, I cannot stray.
 Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow’r
 To help me over my weakest hour.

Help me through the darkness Thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

- 2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain
- 3 I am lost if You take Your hand from me,
I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord, always let me Thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

**The Worship Service Lent
March 3rd, 2021**

Preacher	Rev. Michael Redeker
Liturgist	Rev. Joshua Schmidt
Organist	Marilyn Smith
Acolyte	Brielle Krizman
Videographer	Jeremy Skoog
Solo	James VanFossan & Kianna Manzanares

Wrestle Now

Discussion Notes:

God Loves:

In Galatians 5, Paul parallels the Fruit of the Spirit against the Desires of the Flesh (sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these).

1. What do the Desires of the Flesh have in common with each other?
2. Why are these particularly dangerous to our relationships with God and others?
3. How can we choose to “not waste any of our struggles in life”?

In the message we looked at the story where Jacob wrestled with God. We also need to wrestle with God about our fears, mistakes, addictions, and challenges in life.

When we wrestle with God we open up the possibility to strengthen our faith and find our purpose in the world. The key is to not wait till later, but rather “Wrestle Now.”

And, the best way to wrestle is with help from the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the fruit that can grow in a Christian’s life.

1. What are you being called to wrestle with in your life right now?
2. Which of the fruit of the Spirit would best help you wrestle in the right way?

3. What do you think can happen in your life if God helps you overcome this particular struggle?

Love Others:

1. Who is the one person you go to in your life to get honest feedback about how you're doing?

2. What is it about that person that makes them safe/trustworthy/helpful?

3. Can you think about a time in your life where you wrestled with something very important and you were able to come out of it in a better place?

Serve World:

Let's demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit in our community!

Challenge yourself to do two random acts of kindness for strangers and consider supporting local businesses in your neighborhood (suggestions below).

1. Drop flowers at neighbor's mailbox/walkway, just because.
2. Leave a nice comment for someone on social media.

Green Leaves Floral

626 Pueblo Ct.
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Homestyle Bakery

924 N. 7th St.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Homestylebakerygj.com

Four Winds Coffee & Tea

1235 Bookcliff Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Christcentergj.com

Country Elegance

2494 Patterson Road
Grand Junction CO, 81055
Countryeleganceflorists.com