

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

10:15 am

Prelude

Welcome

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

Announcements

Invocation Confession & Absolution

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

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 your Son, 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: ELW #328 "Restore in Us, O God"

1. **Restore in us, O God, the spender of your love; renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.**
2. **O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r; from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.**
3. **Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy; baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.**
4. **Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace, that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.**

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Greeting

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 (page 203 ELW) (Sing with Congregation)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings and Psalms

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Reader)

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12 (Read responsively) (Reader)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10 (Reader)

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Acclamation

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (*John 12:24*)

The holy gospel according to John, beginning with the twelfth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life

lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon ~ Pastor Carl Bruihler

Hymn of the Day: ELW #379 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

- 1. Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**
- 2. In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain, Thinking that He never would awake again, Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**
- 3. Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain, Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain; Quick from the dead the risen One is seen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**
- 4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Jesus' touch can call us back to life again, Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

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Apostle's 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.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Hymn ELW #686 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" 1st verse

- 1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

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Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

Communion Distribution

Distribution Hymn: ELW #465 "As the Grains of Wheat"

Refrain: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

1. As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*
2. Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

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Post-communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #660 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain: Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
2. All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou has promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be; praise to the Crucified for victory. *Refrain*

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements:

- **Our prayers for the Nelson Family** at the passing of Rachel last week.

- **Tuesday, March 19, 2024**, Church Council meeting at 6:30 pm. Any agenda items should be given to Bob Diesch prior to the meeting.
- **Wednesday Lenten Service at 6:30 pm at Calvary.** This week's guest pastor is Pastor Jacie Richmond, from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mankato. Her scripture for her message is 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.
- **Pastor Dave** will be at Epiphany Lutheran in Eagle Lake, MN this Wednesday evening. Pastor Dave will give his Lenten season message at Calvary on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.
- **Reminder of our Holy Week services ~**
 - **March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday worship at 10:15 am.**
 - **March 28, 2024 Maundy Thursday worship at 6:30 pm.**
 - **March 29, 2024 Good Friday worship at 6:30 pm.**
 - **March 31, 2024 Easter Sunrise service at 7:30 am.**
 - **March 31, 2024 Easter Breakfast at Calvary at 8:15 am**
 - **March 31, 2024 Easter worship service at 10:15 am.**
- **See the sign-up sheet on Flowers** for the sanctuary on Easter morning.
- **Looking for ideas for a proposed butterfly garden** on the north side of the church building. A planning meeting will be announced soon if you are interested in helping with this fun project. Let Pastor Dave know if you are "attracted" to this plan and want to help.

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