

# *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

**April 6, 2025**

**10:15 am**

## **Prelude**

## **Announcements**

## **Introduction**

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✙ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

## **Gathering Hymn: ELW #597 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"**

- 1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain: **On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

- 2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in eve'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

- 3. His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood; when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain***

**4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne.**

*Refrain*

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## **Prayer of the Day**

**Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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 Psalm*

## **First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21**

*The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.*

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

## **Psalm: Psalm 126**

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup> **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.  
<sup>4</sup> **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,**

**like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## **Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

<sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

<sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (*Phil. 3:13-14*)

The Gospel according to John, starting with the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

## **Gospel: John 12:1-8**

*Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.*

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for

the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day: ELW #685 "Take My Life, That I May Be"**

*(vs 1, 2, 5, and 6)*

- 1. Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my fee and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 5. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

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## **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.**

## **Presentation**

The assembly stands. The pastor to be installed and a representative of the calling body come before the presiding minister and the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Having been authorized by the church to install full name, our co-worker in the gospel, as position, I now ask for certification of this agreement.

A representative of the calling body addresses the presiding minister.

After prayerful deliberation, we, of name of calling/employing body, have called full name as position. I present her/him and this letter certifying the agreement.

The representative gives the presiding minister the letter certifying that the call has been received and accepted. The representative moves aside, and the assembly is seated.

## **Address and Questions**

The presiding minister addresses the pastor being installed.

*A reading from John:* Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

*A reading from Matthew:* Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

*A reading from First Timothy:* Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

The presiding minister questions the pastor being installed.

Jenna Couch, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

**Response:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church? Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

**Response:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and in your use of the means of grace? Will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

**Response:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

**Response:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them. **Amen.**

**The assembly stands. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.**

People of God, will you receive Jenna Couch as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God? **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ? **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**The presiding minister addresses the pastor being installed.** Jenna Couch the office of Pastor is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Blessing**

**The newly installed pastor may kneel as the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

**The pastor stands. The following procession to the places of the word and sacraments may be used. The presiding minister escorts the pastor to the place of baptism. A representative of the congregation(s) says:**

**You are welcomed among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.**

**They proceed to the place of the word. A representative of the congregation(s) says:**

**You are welcomed among us to proclaim the good news.**

**They proceed to the place of the meal. A representative of the congregation(s) says:**

**You are welcomed among us to preside at the Lord's supper.**

**The presiding minister may address the assembly with these or similar words.**

People of God, I present to you Jenna Couch, your Pastor. Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

## **Peace**

## **Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW #186 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit  
from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me  
with your free Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a  
right spirit within me.**

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## **Offering Prayer**

**Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our**

**commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need (Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie, Gregg Nelson the Schwantes family, the Strand family and Nathan.) May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel (*especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach*). Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

### **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**

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

### **Distribution Hymn: ELW #522 "As We Gather At Your Table"**

- 1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.**
- 2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**
- 3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor with pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

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### **Post Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **Blessing**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn: ELW #802 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"**

- 1. Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure, through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure. Onward in his footsteps trending, trav'lers here, our home above, full of faith and hope and love,**



let us do our Savior's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

2. Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross. Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss. Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy; all discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter. Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
3. Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death, he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath. Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin; and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven. Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
4. Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head, we are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be in your presence constantly, living there with you forever. Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to me.

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

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✚ **Easter Worship April 20, 2025:** Pancake Breakfast at 8:30, Worship at 10:15 am.

✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie, Gregg Nelson the Schwantes family, the Strand family and Nathan Verch.

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