

Fifth Sunday in Lent | March 21st, 2021 | Fogarty Baptism

Assistant: Allie Schley | In-Person Reader: Wendy Claffey

Online Reader: 8th Grade Confirmation Class

Announcements

- Today is the Fifth Sunday in the Season of Lent!
 - And a perfect day for a baptism! A special welcome to the McGrath and Fogarty families as we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism with Lenny Rose.
- We will have our midweek worship services in-person at 11:30 and 7:00 throughout the season. No need to RSVP for these services.
- Our annual Communion class/retreat is today from 10:00 - 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate our Communion milestone next Sunday at a special 11:00 worship service.
- Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week
 - Palm/Passion Sunday service will be in-person at 9:00 and online at our regular weekly times
 - Maundy Thursday services will be at 11:30 and 7:00. This service will not be online
 - Good Friday services will be at 3:00 and 7:00. This service will not be online.
 - Easter Sunday services will be at 9:00 and 11:00. This service will also be online at our regular weekly times
 - RSVPs are a *must* for our Easter services
- Connie Harmeyer will be talking with us briefly about an upcoming special meeting to accept our newly revised Constitution.

Confession + Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are \mp forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn | *Nothing But the Blood of Jesus* (old recording)

*What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

[Chorus]

*O, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Chorus]*

*This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Chorus]*

*Glory glory this I sing, nothing but the blood of Jesus
All my life my cry shall be, nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Chorus]*

CCLI Song #6404561 CCLI License #20087080

[in-person] **Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

...

Let us welcome the newly baptized: **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Greeting (Allie)

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.**

Prayer of the Day (Allie)

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.**

Children's Message [online]

First Reading | Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

Psalm 51:1-2, 7-12

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!

Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.

Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds!

Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me.

Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit.

Second Reading | Hebrews 5:5-10

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.

In the same way Christ also didn't promote himself to become high priest. Instead, it was the one who said to him,

You are my Son. Today I have become your Father,

as he also says in another place,

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

During his days on earth, Christ offered prayers and requests with loud cries and tears as his sacrifices to the one who was able to save him from death. He was heard because of his godly devotion. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. After he had been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him. He was appointed by God to be a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love

*Gospel Reading | 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.

Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.

"Now I am deeply troubled. What should I say? 'Father, save me from this time'? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The crowd standing there heard and said, "It's thunder." Others said, "An angel spoke to him."

Jesus replied, "This voice wasn't for my benefit but for yours. Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world's ruler will be thrown out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (He said this to show how he was going to die.)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day | *Our Father, We Have Wandered* ELW 606 (new recording)

*Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,
As, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.*

*And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,*

In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,

Compassionate, forgiving, and ever-caring Lord.

Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease

Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

[online] **Apostles' Creed**

***Prayers of Intercession** (Allie)

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. We pray especially for Pastor Dave, Nancy Gjerde, Jane Lorsung, and Laurie Roemhildt, as well as the families and friends of Galen Krueger, Ron Germsheid, and all those killed in Atlanta this week. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

[online] In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

[in-person] You have called all people from darkness into light, death into life. Grant grace to Lenny Rose Fogarty, and all the baptized. Raise us by your Spirit and revive us by your word, that we may bear witness to your grace and praise you forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***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.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **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.**

***Final Blessing (Allie)**

A final blessing from St. Patrick:

As you arise today, may the strength of God pilot you, the power of God uphold you, the wisdom of God guide you. May the eye of God look before you, the ear of God hear you, the word of God speak for you. May the hand of God protect you, the way of God lie before you, the shield of God defend you, the host of God save you.

May Christ shield you today. Christ with you, Christ before you, Christ behind you, Christ in you, Christ beneath you, Christ above you, Christ on your right, Christ on your left, Christ when you lie down, Christ when you sit, Christ when you stand. Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of you, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of you, Christ in every eye that sees you, Christ in every ear that hears you.

Amen.

Sending Hymn | *Were You There* v. 5 ELW 353 (old recording)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

***Dismissal** (Allie)

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**