

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 17, 2024

10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

901 EAST STROOP ROAD

KETTERING, OH 45429-4688

(937) 298-0136

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

## *Introduction*

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 light and truth into our hearts. We see God’s heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

## *Called Where Jesus Goes*

It isn’t only the first disciples who become uncomfortable when Jesus talked about his approaching death. We often do as well. Perhaps focusing on the crucifixion seems gruesome. Perhaps it conjures in us the (false) story of a divine parent who cannot forgive without punishing someone, with Jesus standing in as that one. Maybe it feels like a morbid emphasis on sin.

Jesus did not understand himself as the victim of divine punishment. He entered into suffering as a part of his glorification, working with—not against—his Father. He knows that human life has become twisted under the powers of sin and death so that if we grasp onto our “life in this world,” we will miss God’s gracious intention for us. Christ’s judgment of sin is not for our exclusion. Jesus never seeks to shame us, but condemns sin in order to deliver us from its power.

Perhaps, however, we shy away from talk of Christ’s death because we sense, on some level, that if our Lord must go to the cross, then so too must we. Jesus declares, “Whoever serves me must follow me.” Discipleship is a summons to die to ourselves and lose our life on this world’s terms. Paradoxically, this cruciform journey is the road to true fruitfulness and flourishing. It begins in our baptism and is nourished at the Lord’s table. It is sustained by the fellowship of faith, where together we hear the life-giving word of Jesus. It will find completion on the day of resurrection.

Our souls long for this way of salvation. Deep within us all, a voice whispers, “We wish to see Jesus.” God knows this need, so Jesus is lifted up to drive out the powers of sin and death. God’s unending mercy is displayed. For the same reason, we come together so that in hearing the word and sharing the eucharistic meal, and in our prayers, laments, and praises, Jesus may be lifted up to draw us, and all people, to salvation.

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

## \*\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*In remembrance of their baptism, all may make the sign of the cross.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free. **Amen.**

Let us come before the living God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation, **we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, † Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

\*\* GATHERING SONG

Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

\*\* GREETING

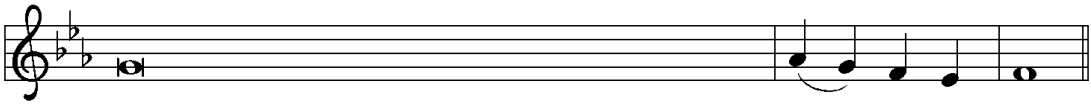
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



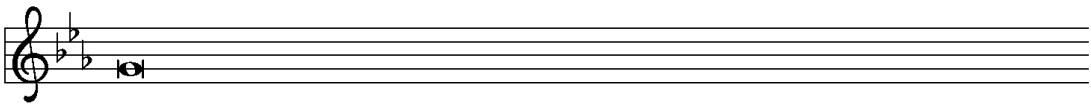
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



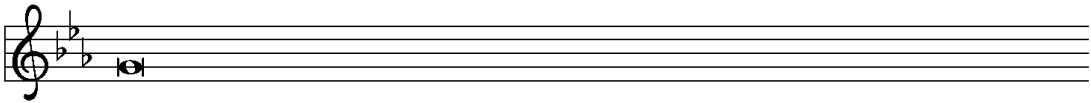
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

**\*\* 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.

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,  
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

## 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.*

A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It 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. But 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. No 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**Psalms 51:1-12**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)*

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

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

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

**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.**

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

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

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

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

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

**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 sustain me with your bountiful 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.*

A reading from the book of Hebrews.

Christ 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"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." In 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. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



**\*\* 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.*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very 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. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now 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. 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 it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Just To Be with You*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Lord, my life is an empty cup;  
Here's my heart - would you fill me up?  
I'm face to the ground, forsaking my pride,  
Leaving my will, my burdens behind.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

All I want, all I need  
Is just to be with you,  
Just to be with you.  
Here I am at your feet  
Just to be with you,  
Just to be with you.

**(Verse 2 - All)**

**I have come to the end of me,  
And there's nothing I have to bring;  
But you said I belong, you say I am yours;  
Nothing compares to knowing you more.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**All I want, all I need  
Is just to be with you,  
Just to be with you.  
Here I am at your feet  
Just to be with you,  
Just to be with you.**

**(Music Ministers)**

You made a way for me, O Savior.  
I'm yours forevermore.  
You made a way for me, O Savior.  
I'm yours forevermore.  
I'm yours forevermore.

**(Final Refrain - Music Ministers / All)**

All I want, all I need  
Is just to be with you,  
Just to be with you.  
Here I am at your feet  
Just to be with you,  
Just to be with you.

**All I want, all I need  
Is just to be with you,  
Just to be with you.  
Here I am at your feet  
Just to be with you,  
Just to be with you.**

**\*\* 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
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.

**\*\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

*Each intercession concludes:* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## \*\* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*\* LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

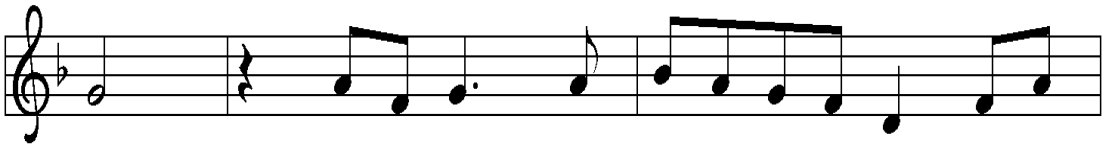
**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**\*\* LAMB OF GOD**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.



# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## \*\* BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Higher than the mountains that I face.  
Stronger than the power of the grave,  
Constant in the trial and the change,  
One thing remains, one thing remains.  
Your love, your love, your love will never change.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

On and on and on and on it goes.  
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.  
And I never, ever have to be afraid.  
One thing remains, one thing remains.

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:  
Your love.**

(Verse 3 - All)

On and on and on and on it goes.  
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.  
And I never, ever have to be afraid.  
One thing remains, one thing remains.

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:  
Your love.**

(Music Ministers/**All**)

In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
By the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart  
From your great love.

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
By the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart  
From your great love.**

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:  
Your love.**

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
By the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart  
From your great love, your love.**

(Final Verse - Music Ministers)

Higher than the mountains that I face.  
Stronger than the power of the grave,  
Constant in the trial and the change,  
One thing remains, one thing remains:  
Your love.



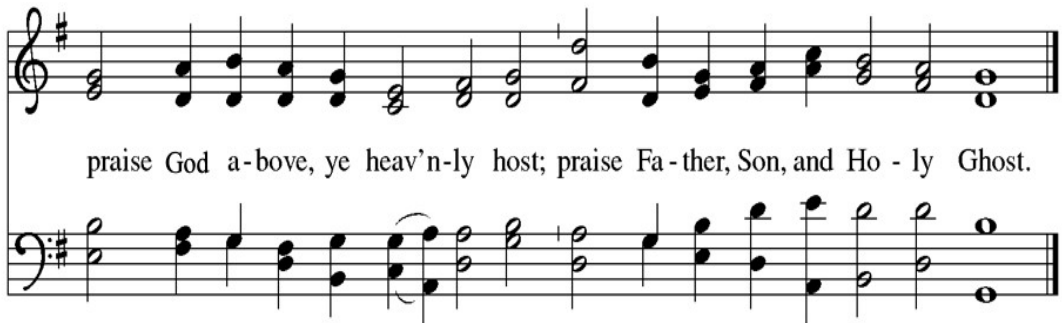
**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be-low;

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes.



praise God a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature as the first system. The lyrics continue below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes.

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week  
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation  
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

## Upcoming Commemorations

**Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461**  
**Sunday, March 17, 2024**

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

**Joseph, Guardian of Jesus**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

**Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

**Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758**  
**Friday, March 22, 2024**

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

**NOTES:**

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