

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Greatness Upside-Down

The Love of God Written upon Our Hearts

March 21, 2021



AS WE GATHER

The Israelites repeatedly had broken the covenants God made with them, and yet in today's Old Testament Reading He promises a new covenant. This one, however, will not be based on the external Law of God; by pure grace, it will be written on the hearts of God's people. To do that, God sent His Son, who paid for all sin by offering Himself as both priest and sacrifice. Although we are all imperfect, knowing that we have been forgiven only by the grace of God, we have the desire to love one another. As we recall our Lord's Passion in the coming weeks, we will recognize that love means forgiving, giving oneself for others. Jesus puts it bluntly in the Gospel: The greatest in the kingdom of God is the one who serves all the others. And, of course, the greatest is our Lord Jesus, who loves us to death.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Loving Father we thank You for this time together and we pray that Your joy and peace would rest upon us and that we would be filled to the overflowing with Your Holy Spirit, during this time together. Jesus, the journey you took to the cross was full of betrayal, grief, torture, and darkness, yet your love for us, your people, propelled you onward. Help us to comprehend just how powerful that love is, that you would suffer such a cruel death to make a way for us to be with you in glory forever. What a gift, Jesus. May our praise never cease in this season. May our worship be unending. May our love for you find new depths. May this season bring new hope and new healing. May we journey toward the cross prayerfully and purposefully, even through the pain, our doubt, our questions, and our searching. May we find resurrection life springing up from this old dusty ground, and may we be surprised by joy in all of it. May Easter be a day of complete celebration as we rejoice in our risen Savior and praise our gracious Father. In you, we find the truest joy, Jesus. We praise you in all of it. – this we ask in Jesus name, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED:

As a Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) church, we believe and confess that through the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper we receive the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine. As we commune with faith and repentance, we receive the forgiveness of sins and power to amend our sinful lives. If you confess the same belief, we invite you to our fellowship of the Lord’s Supper.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD’S HOUSE: Since we have a great High Priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. As people, as a group, as a community of faith –we gather in this place to listen, to speak, to worship, to pray, to be with God. Because we know –it is out of God’s authority, it is out of God’s love, that we live. Let us worship

SELECTION

Minister Dale

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Jeremiah 31:31, 33; Mark 10:43–44*

Pastor: The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant.

People: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

Pastor: And I will be their God,

People: and they shall be My people.

Pastor: Whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

People: and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 5:9*

Pastor: Bearing our sins and in need of a Savior, let us go to our heavenly Father, asking for forgiveness.

Time for reflection on the word of God and for personal examination.

Pastor: Most merciful, heavenly Father, You promised a covenant written on Your people's hearts.

People: **But we do not always rely on Your promises and great love. We are sorry.**

Pastor: Gracious Holy Spirit, through Your use of Word and Sacrament, many people know the Lord.

People: **But we have not taken advantage of every opportunity to share Your Word with others. We are sorry.**

Pastor: Jesus taught that the greatest in the Kingdom is the servant of all.

People: **But our hearts have not always been humble and eager for service. We are sorry.**

Our thoughts, words, and deeds fall short. As fallen sinners, we are helpless to change. For Jesus' sake, forgive us, and give us new and clean hearts to love You and serve our neighbors.

Pastor: God promised in the new covenant, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." In the sacrifice of Himself, Jesus, being perfect, "became the source of eternal salvation." 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.

People: **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace in our hearts, knowing that salvation is sure, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace among the nations and the growth of the Church in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Church here and wherever God's people gather for praise and worship, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, who has revealed to us Your great love in Christ our Savior and written Your covenant on our hearts,

People: grant us such faith that our daily joy is in sharing Your love in what we think, say, and do;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 31:31–34* (A new covenant is coming, written on people's hearts.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

GRADUAL *Hebrews 12:2*

Leader: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 5:1–10* (Jesus was both one-time priest and sacrifice, dying for all.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Mark 10:45*

Leader: Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 10:32–45* (Jesus teaches about true greatness.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SELECTION **Minister Terry Dale**

SERMON

SELECTION **Minister Terry Dale**
(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I knowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

For the Church here and wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament, that God would move us to true repentance so that we reflect in our lives the love that He has written on our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Loving Father, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the clergy and lay leaders of the Church, that God would help them call the repentant back, enable healing across painful divisions, and teach catechumens of all ages the message of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Have mercy on us, O Holy Spirit.**

Leader: That our Lord would bring about understanding across political borders, between racial, generational, economic, and cultural differences, and within families of all sizes and shapes, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord of the nations and Prince of Peace, listen to our plea.**

Leader: For teachers and students, social workers and counselors, police and all first responders, that God would keep them safe and healthy, guiding them in crises and sustaining them in chronic problems, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Father in heaven, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who are in exile from home, those who have been incarcerated, and any who have not been treated with human dignity, that God would surround them with supportive individuals and organizations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Spirit of truth, increase their patience and hope that many may rejoice together.**

Leader: For those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], people everywhere who seek healing and peace, and those known only to God, that our Lord would heal, restore, and console them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord Jesus, come to their aid.

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS Holy, Holy, Holy (TLH 246 St. 1]

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, for in sending us Your Son to die and rise for us You not only gave us eternal salvation but revealed to us Your immeasurable love. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, Father, so that we might emulate our Savior's great love and service as we respond to Your grace and mercy. Strengthen us now through this Sacrament of His body and blood; grant that in true faith we receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation You so graciously bestow upon us here. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Hymn Come to Calvary Holy Mountain [TLH 149 St. 1]

1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall; Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for Me, for all, In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Pastor: As Simeon held the baby Jesus in the temple, he said,

People: “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
according to Your word;
for my eyes have seen Your salvation
that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to Your people Israel.”

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through
this salutary gift,
**and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us
through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one
another;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The blessings of God—the Father, who loved us so much that He gave
His only Son for us; the Son, who became one of us to die for us; and the
Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in us that we might be active in love—be
with you, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**