



March 22, 2023

The Fifth Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

- ♪ Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?
- ♪ Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!
- ♪ Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures' sin.
- ♪ Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
- ♪ But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away: 'Tis all that I can do.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 437 -Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748;
Tune: Hugh Wilson 1764-1824, setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Invocation

This is the day which the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

The name of the Lord is to be praised.

Psalm 113:3

Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

Joel 2:13

Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Matthew 16:24

Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

He was bruised for our iniquities.

Isaiah 53:5

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

The name of the Lord is to be praised.

Psalm 113:3

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.

Old Testament Canticle *Please Be Seated* Music: “Alas, and Did”, Hymn 437

- ♪ The Lord God is my strength and song. My salvation, He is
With joy will you draw water from, The wells of salvation.
- ♪ And you will say in that great day: “Give thanks to the Lord God.”
Call on His name, make known His deeds; Exalted be His name.
- ♪ Sing praises to the Lord always, For He is glorious.
Let this be known in all the earth, O shout and sing for joy.

♪ Glory to God the Father, sing; Glory to Christ, our King.
And Holy Spirit, Three in One; 'Tis now, and evermore.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 22:1–9

¹And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ²“And you, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? Then declare to her all her abominations. ³You shall say, Thus says the Lord GOD: A city that sheds blood in her midst, so that her time may come, and that makes idols to defile herself! ⁴You have become guilty by the blood that you have shed, and defiled by the idols that you have made, and you have brought your days near, the appointed time of your years has come. Therefore I have made you a reproach to the nations, and a mockery to all the countries. ⁵Those who are near and those who are far from you will mock you; your name is defiled; you are full of tumult.

⁶“Behold, the princes of Israel in you, every one according to his power, have been bent on shedding blood. ⁷Father and mother are treated with contempt in you; the sojourner suffers extortion in your midst; the fatherless and the widow are wronged in you. ⁸You have despised my holy things and profaned my Sabbaths. ⁹There are men in you who slander to shed blood, and people in you who eat on the mountains; they commit lewdness in your midst.

The Epistle

Hebrews 9:15–22

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Gradual Hymn

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”

- ♪ Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.
- ♪ But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.
- ♪ My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand, And there confess my sin.
- ♪ My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree; I know my guilt was there.
- ♪ Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 431 -Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: William Daman c.1540-91
Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 27:11–26

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.” ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.” ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²²Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³And he said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Responsory

We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 2:1

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Mark 10:33

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalms 32:1

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Mark 10:33

We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 2:1

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Mark 10:33

The Hymn

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

- ♪ Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.
- ♪ Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.
- ♪ Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423 -Text: Girolamo Savonarola 1452-98; tr. James F. Wilde 1826-96;
Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen Schatz, Basel 1745; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Catechism

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members my reason and all my senses and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His on and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Proclamation of the Word

“Water and Blood”

Matthew 27:11–26

The Hymn

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

- ♪ 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.
- ♪ Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
- ♪ Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.

♪ They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 435 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854
Tune: Ludwig M. Lindeman 1812-87, setting: Lutheran Book of Worship 1978; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

The Prayer *Please Stand*

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

New Testament Cantic *Music: "Abide With Me," Hymn 878*

♪ Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise; Of heav'nly joy and earthly peace we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord, God, Almighty Father, heav'nly King.

♪ Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son, You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won, Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

♪ Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord, At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored, With all the heav'nly host we glorify

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 946; Text: Edwin Le Grice 1911-92; ©1991 Kevin Mayhew;
Used by permission, LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Benediction

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

"Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing"

♪ Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me from its first beginning.

♪ Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion, And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded," That the tempter flee confounded.

♪ If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.

♪ Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds,
Lord, is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul. Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet; For Your all-atoning passion Has procured my soul's salvation.

♪ O my God, my rock and tower, Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 421 -Text: Johann Heermann 1585-1647; Tune Johann Balthasar Konig 1691-1758;
Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Postlude

Door Offering