

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, March 21, 2021: Fifth Sunday in Lent

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 love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

Gathering

Welcoming & Announcements

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 + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. Amen.

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.***

Kyrie

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

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

*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 mercy.***

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord. **Amen.***

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.***

Hymn: "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" #334

1. Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry,
still you rise with ev'ry morn,
still you rise with ev'ry morn.
2. We remember truth once spoken,
love passed on through act and word;
ev'ry person lost and broken
wears the body of our Lord,
wears the body of our Lord.
3. Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.
5. God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death,
hold us close through each tomorrow,
love as near as ev'ry breath.

Text & Music: Marty Haugen ©1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission under One License #A-710041

Word

Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

Psalm 51:1-12

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.**

Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵So also 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"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." ⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he

suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Acclamation Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel: John 12:20-33 (*response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord***)

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷ “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. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

*(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)*

Message

Hymn: “*The Church’s Song Will Carry on Throughout This Season of Our Grief*”

1. The church’s song will carry on throughout this season of our grief.
The hymnody we hold so dear still brings our lonely hearts relief.
The songs that teach us of our faith may seem like distant melodies;
yet if we listen with our hearts, God sings to us a song of peace.
2. We’d like to make a joyful noise like Miriam sang beside the sea.
We’d like to join the heav’nly host in hymns of joy and mystery;
but in the face of constant strife sometimes we lose our will to sing;
yet e’en with voices soft and low, God heals our pain and sets us free.
3. When isolation wears us down; when forced to worship from our homes;
God offers each of us a choice: will fear consume, or will we grow?
For all the times we’ve felt alone; for plans and dreams that may have died;
there still remains inside of us a song that beckons us to life.
4. The hope of Christ is this, my friends: that even in our unbelief
within the darkness shines a light aglow with possibility.
So let us dream of better days where truth and justice will prevail;
when all shall know the heart of God, whose song of love will never fail.
5. There is a day ahead of us when we will gather once again.
We’ll hear the Word, we’ll bow in prayer, and raise our voices in a hymn.
The pain and suffering of the past we’ll lay down at the cross of Christ
while singing hymns of praise to God, who brings us all from death to life.

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 again 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

Sharing the Peace

Offering/Offertory

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion & Post Communion Prayer

Sending

Stewards of Justice: *Steve Just*

Hymn: "Lift High the Cross" #660

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Refrain | 2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of him who died.
Refrain |
| 3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.
Refrain | 4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!
Refrain |

Text: George W. Kitchin, Music: Sydney H. Nicholson. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.. Used with permission under One License #A-710041

Benediction: *Go in peace, serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!*

Remember in your prayers

Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those working in our hospitals and care centers, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support, Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.