



Journeying to the Cross

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

Zacchaeus

Jesus broke down the statuses of “good” and “bad” people, and offered compassion, acceptance, forgiveness, and love to all people.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

“A Prayer in Need”

- Rodriguez

Announcements

Call to Worship

**Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

**If you break the chains of oppression, if you set the pris’ner free
if you share your bread with the hungry, give protection to the lost;
give a shelter to the homeless, clothe the naked in your midst,
then your light shall break forth like the dawn.**

(Refrain)

Confession & Forgiveness

In this holy season of Lent, we are mindful that we are tempted on our journeys and on our own, our only destination is death. In our journey we choose trails of deceit, self-centeredness and blindness to our neighbor in need. We confess our sin that leads us away and separates us from God and one another...

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may journey with you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Christ journeys with us and through Christ's life, death, and resurrection we are forgiven. Siblings in Christ, let us journey together, forgiven and freed for the life we know in Christ. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Red ELW 592 vv.1,3,4

**Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,**

**Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God, You welcomed all people and did not hold their misfortunes against them. Encourage us also to set aside our prejudice and show the same unbiased mercy you demonstrated, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

*A man's blindness was punishment for his sin. Another man's sin had yet to be punished.
But Jesus welcomed them both with compassion, forgiveness, and a new lease on life.*

Invitation to the Word

You set your face toward Jerusalem for our sake,
come to us now in the proclamation of your word.

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:31-43

³¹Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³²For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. ³³After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." ³⁴But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said. ³⁵As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." ³⁸Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹"What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." ⁴²Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." ⁴³Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

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

Message

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 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

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Restorer of sight to the blind, sharpen our own eyes to see the places where we are needed, and to see ourselves as you see us: gifted servants and beloved children. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Forgiver of sin, you didn't judge a man for his past offenses, but rather saw the true heart within, enabling him to become the person he was truly created to be. May we, like Zacchaeus, be open to the transforming power of your forgiveness. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

We repent of the ways we have abused and destroyed this earth, O Lord, and ask for strength and wisdom to work toward preserving what remains, for the sake of all living things. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Cure us of our own blindness to love and release us from the temptation to serve ourselves alone. Grant healing and mercy to all those who need it... God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the strength to stand by our witness to your gospel, even in the face of opposition. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Other petitions may be offered.

You hear all your children's prayers and gather the lost into your loving arms. Teach us to put our trust in you, and in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. As our congregation gathers food and necessities for the Action Center during this Lenten season, turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

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

Blessing

With Christ's face set towards Jerusalem, may you be blessed with God's faithfulness, mercy and love for the journey ahead of us. **Amen.**

Sending Song

This I Believe

Our Father everlasting
The all creating One, God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour

Chorus

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

**Our judge and our defender Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high**
Chorus

Sending

Go in peace as you continue your journey with Christ.

Postlude

"The Wondrous Cross"



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Prelude: Meredith Lusby
- Assisting Minister: Scott Ikenberry
- Liturgy leaders: Susan Parks, Susan Boehm, Amy Evancheck, Darlene Mader
- Opening Song: Chancel Choir - Scott Ikenberry, Amy Evancheck, Louise Powelson, Melinda Powelson, Megan Hausmann, Donna & Mike Madsen, Susie DiPaolo, Barb Hessel, Linda TeKrony, Eric Kurtz, Brenda Gleason, John Reed, Paul Thomas, Dianne Schulte, Jordan Ortman
- Closing Song: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Postlude: Handbell Choir: Larry & Shirley Bradsby, Linda TeKrony, Mike Madsen, Susie DiPaolo, Amy Evancheck, Martha Mustard, Brenda Gleason
- Photographs: Michael TeKrony, Winston Herbert, Ron Skabo, Amy Evancheck