



Journeying to the Cross

First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

Good Samaritan

Right and wrong are subjective. Jesus challenged his audience to expand their perspectives and think differently about the things of the world.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

"Penitentia"

Announcements

Call to Worship

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

**Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;
come and learn now the way of our God. (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

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Red ELW 656

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

Prayer of the Day

God of wisdom, You challenge us to expand our minds to your inclusive view of the world. Teach us to welcome the stranger whoever they may be, and to open ourselves to having our minds changed and our hearts transformed, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

Through the parable of the Samaritan and his words to Martha, Jesus challenged his hearers to think differently, to open themselves to the possibility that their ideas of right and wrong might be off just a bit.

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 10:25-42

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹But wanting to justify

himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."
³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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.

You made your followers uncomfortable, O Lord, when you invited them to look beyond their closest circles of belonging and serve all your children. In the same way shake up our restricted views and open us to a bigger life where anything is possible with you.

Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer.**

There is need of only one thing: you and your unbounded love. Show us clearly the power of accepting the other and seeing ourselves in each person we encounter.

Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer.**

You invite us to walk gently upon the earth, treating creation as our home. Give us vision in how we live on this planet and strengthen our efforts to protect and preserve all that you have made.

Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer.**

Make us present to those who need our help and show us a world beyond the confines of our comfort zone. Use us as healing ambassadors to all whom we encounter, and send your blessing to those whom we name today...

Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer.**

Make us one with all the saints of every time and place, and inspire the deeds of our lives with their example of passion and faithfulness.

Compassionate God, **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

What A Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

*What a beautiful name it is, What a beautiful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful name it is
The name of Jesus*

**You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now**

***What a beautiful name it is, what a wonderful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful name it is
The Name of Jesus***

Sending

Go in peace as you continue your journey with Christ.

Postlude

"I Stand Amazed in the Presence"

- Berry



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Prelude: Meredith Lusby
- Assisting Minister: Paul Thomas
- Liturgy leaders: Lisa Grimm, John Reed, Joan Meister-Bridges, Pam Thomas
- Opening Song: Jordan Ortman, Susie DiPaolo, Barb Hessel, Amy Evancheck,
Dianne Schulte, Denise Ikenberry, Scott Ikenberry, John Reed,
Ron Skabo, Ryan McPeek
- Sending Song: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Postlude: Jordan Ortman
- Photographs: Michael TeKrony, Winston Herbert, Ron Skabo