

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

“Cross” Way

March 25 & 26, 2023

5:00pm & 8:00am

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### AS WE GATHER

Each Sunday in Lent brings us closer to Holy Week and closer to the foot of the cross. In a sense, we are annual pilgrims traveling on the way of and to the cross. Each year is slightly different from the one that has come before on that cross way. According to the liturgical year in the Church, we are closer today to the death of Christ and His glorious resurrection than we were a week ago. And, according to our earthly lives, we are drawing closer to our own individual death and resurrection. Along this way, we intersect with the cross, which serves as a sign for our lives at all times. May we each be blessed in our pilgrimage!

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

#### MINISTRY MOMENT – Service in the Church

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.  
Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land. Psalm 85:8-9.

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #907 “God Himself Is Present”

God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him  
And with awe appear before Him,  
God is in His temple; All within keep silence;  
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone On His throne Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!

God Himself is present; Hear the harps resounding:  
See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
“Holy, holy, holy!” Hear the hymn ascending,  
Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear To us here; Hear, O Christ, the praises  
That Your Church now raises.

Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit, Trusting only in Your merit.  
Like the holy angels, Worshipping before You, May I ceaselessly adore You.  
Let Your will Ever still Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,

**People: Your faithfulness to the clouds.**

Pastor: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

**People: The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

Pastor: They feast on the abundance of your house,

**People: and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

Pastor: For with you is the fountain of life;

**People: in your light do we see light.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

✠ WORD ✠

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Humble yourselves before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**People: Almighty God, merciful Father, we acknowledge our sinful nature and repent of our sins—those of which we are not aware and those we know full well. We do not love you and other people as we ought. We are often careless with your creation and heedless in choosing the proper priorities of our lives. Yet it is our intent to say and do that which honors you. For the sake of Jesus grant us your forgiveness so that, as your redeemed people, we may be fit places for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and may serve you in time and in eternity.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

**People: Amen.**

**SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Holy Spirit, you are a gift and a blessing. You call us from death and despair to faith and faithfulness and assure us of resurrection and life in Christ, who has brought about our atonement. Enlighten our hearts that we may rejoice in the power and blessing of your presence in and among us. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Father are one God, world without end.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Ezekiel 37:1–14* (Life is restored in the valley of the dry bones.) The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.” <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 8:1–11* (Life in the Spirit through Christ)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who

<sup>4</sup> continued

live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**5:00 BELL ANTHEM**      *“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”*

(Rise)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the eleventh chapter.

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

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 11:17–27, 38–53* (Lazarus is restored to life by Jesus.)

<sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup>She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” <sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

<sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” <sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” <sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, <sup>46</sup>but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup>So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. <sup>48</sup>If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” <sup>49</sup>But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. <sup>50</sup>Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” <sup>51</sup>He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup>and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. <sup>53</sup>So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Be seated)

### **CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**“Let Me Learn of Jesus”** AGPS #156

Let me learn of Jesus; He is kind to me  
Once He died to save me, nailed upon the tree.

When I go to Jesus, He will hear me pray  
Make me pure and holy, take my sins away.

Let me think of Jesus; He is full of love,  
Looking down upon me From His throne above.

### **SERMON HYMN #430 “My Song Is Love Unknown”**

My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none The longed for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!  
Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.  
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.  
Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease And ‘gainst Him rise.  
They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life They slay.  
Yet cheerful He To suff’ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.  
In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav’n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.  
Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

## SERMON

(Rise)

## APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
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.  
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.

(Be seated)

## “CROSS” REFERENCE

Pastor: In the Large Catechism section on the Lord’s Prayer, Martin Luther wrote with confidence, “For where God’s Word is preached, accepted, or believed and produces fruit, there the holy cross cannot be missing.”  
The cross is a constant positive presence along the way of life of the Christian. We sing of its power in the familiar hymn, “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed,” as we gather our offerings.

## HYMN DURING OFFERING #560

### “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed  
With healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.  
Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, thy grace abused, my misspent years;  
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.  
Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.  
And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be  
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord, you raised your Son and sent your Spirit. Sustain us while we await Christ’s attention to our present needs. Give strength to our prayers, heal our weaknesses and restore all our losses. Give us faith throughout our days in Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, breathe your life into your Church, that she may stand by your strength and live according to Your Word. Lay your hand on men of every era to proclaim your Word and to bring life to the downtrodden, the faithless, the fearful and the outcast. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you have visited your creation in your Son. Grant that our homes would always receive Him and that husbands and wives and brothers and sisters would rejoice to hear His promises, steadfastly believing them and ever living in their light. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of Life, you called Lazarus out of the tomb and into life. Help us all to remember that when you return you will call us all out of our graves by calling us by name. Now be especially with Anthony & Nancy Mysliwski in remembrance of Lorraine Mysliwski on her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Help them to remember that in you she has an eternal supply of birthdays still to look forward to. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of all, humble those who are given authority over the lives of our people, that they would discharge this duty honorably in accord with your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, direct and send to your church workers who will be faithful to your people. Give all church workers wisdom and encouragement in the work they do. Give discernment especially to Zachary Zieschang as he deliberates where it is you want him to work in this next chapter of life. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, the ones you love are ill and need your holy care especially Gene, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Marga, Cheryl, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Vern, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. Make haste to help them. Spare their lives. On the Last Day, call them from their graves and unite them to you and all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy Father, in Baptism you have given the new birth of water and the Spirit. Make your children strong in your Spirit, that they may shun the works of the flesh and live in this world expecting the resurrection and the life of the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

#### PAX DOMINI

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

**People: Amen.**

#### AGNUS DEI

Page 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

**5:00 BELL ANTHEM**

*“Ah Holy Jesus”*

**HYMN #526            “You Are the Way; Through You Alone”**

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;  
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu’ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

**HYMN #438            “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”**

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, The guilt of sinners bearing  
And, laden with the sins of earth, None else the burden sharing;  
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,  
To slaughter led without complaint, That spotless life to offer,  
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,  
The mockery, and yet replies, “All this I gladly suffer.”

This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend, The Lamb of God, our Savior,  
Whom God the Father chose to send To gain for us His favor.

“Go forth, My Son,” The Father said,  
“And free My children from their dread Of guilt and condemnation.  
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,  
But by Your passion they will share The fruit of Your salvation.”

“Yes, Father, yes, most willingly I’ll bear what You command Me.  
My will conforms to Your decree, I’ll do what You have asked Me.”  
O wondrous Love, what have You done!  
The Father offers up His Son, Desiring our salvation.  
O Love, how strong You are to save!  
You lay the One into the grace Who built the earth’s foundation.

Lord, when Your glory I shall see And taste Your kingdom’s pleasure,  
Your blood my royal robe shall be, My joy beyond all measure!  
When I appear before Your Throne,  
Your righteousness shall be my crown; With these I need not hide me.  
And there, in garments richly wrought,  
As Your own bride shall we be brought To stand in joy beside You.

**HYMN #439 “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”**

O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,  
What dark transgression?

They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
With cruel mocking to the cross they urge Thee;  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;  
They crucify Thee.

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,  
This I do merit.

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;  
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,  
Who would not know Him.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;  
God is committed.

There was no spot in me by sin untainted;  
Sick with sin’s poison, all my heart had fainted;  
My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me,  
Such woe it wrought me.

O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!  
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?  
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer?  
What dare I offer?

And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven  
To me the crown of joy at last is given,  
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,  
I, too, shall praise Thee.

### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you for the life and knowledge you have revealed to us through Jesus, your Son. To you be glory forever. By this Sacrament, strengthen and preserve us. Guide, guard, and rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve you here on earth, looking to the final day of resurrection and that time after the end of time when we feast with Christ the Lamb of sacrifice in His kingdom. This we ask through your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN #436 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;  
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.  
“It is finished!” hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Marc Stefanic, Katie Scepaniski  
Olivia Kukor

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