

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**MARCH 21, 2021**



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: “Lift High The Cross”**

**ELW #660**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbcBXYP4AIE>

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**P: Amen.**

L: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,

**P: 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 hearers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: 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.

**P: 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.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**SONG: “Made For This” Maker Fun Factory VBS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVKuOi3YEAM>

**FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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 OF THE DAY: PSALM 51:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.  
<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother’s womb.  
<sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.  
<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.  
<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.  
<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.  
<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.



**SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>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”;  
<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,  
“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”  
<sup>7</sup>In 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. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

### **GOSPEL READING: JOHN 12:20-33**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

<sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**SERMON: "All, No Exceptions"**

**Pastor Jerome Evavold**

**SONG: "Take Up Your Cross" by Barry Marciniak and Jerome Evavold  
Accompanied by Val Bushnell**

Take up your cross --- Jesus said  
Don't let pride get in the way  
Humble yourself, listen to him say:  
"Come and follow me today"

#### Chorus

So take up your cross-He says to us today  
I'll be with to show you the way  
In order to live- the way life was meant to be  
Just take up your cross and follow me.

Take up your cross – Jesus said  
If your self you would find  
Give up your life, lose yourself in me  
Follow for you have been set free. Chorus

I gave myself to you, give yourself to me.  
Don't forget, You have been set free  
I died and rose again just as I said,  
You will rise up from the dead Chorus

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE 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.**

## OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: “*As The Grains of Wheat*”

ELW #465

### Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
Were gathered into one to become our bread;  
So may all your people from all the ends of earth  
Be gathered into one in you.

- 1) As the cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
May we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*
- 2) Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come  
When all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this fifth Sunday in Lent, let us offer both our laments and our petitions to God, responding to each petition with words from today’s psalm, “*have mercy on us.*”

#### *A brief silence.*

O God, we lament that over the past months many Christians have not be able to assemble in person for worship. Many believers have languished alone. And we pray: Strengthen all Christians in every church around the globe in the covenant of their baptism. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and service projects, whether online or in person.

#### *A brief silence.*

O faithful God, in your steadfast love,  
**have mercy on us.**

We lament that by indulging our own desires, we have misused your creation and have worsened the poverty of others. And we pray: Continue your care for the earth you have made. Protect animals and their habitats. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds, and shelter all lands from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires.

#### *A brief silence.*

O almighty God, in your steadfast love,  
**have mercy on us.**

We lament that as a nation we have not insured justice for all and equal access to freedoms and to the necessities of life. We lament ongoing prejudices and violence on our streets and in our homes. And we pray: Bring an end to warfare and terrorism. Imbue our courts with truth and wisdom. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all.

*A brief silence.*

O righteous God, in your steadfast love,  
**have mercy on us.**

We lament the sufferings of people the world over. We lament the sorrows of the pandemic. We lament hunger, homelessness, and loneliness. And we pray: End this pandemic. Provide vaccinations to all persons around the earth. Guide us in healing the sick, welcoming the migrant, feeding the hungry, and living with others in harmony. We pray especially for . . . .  
**Craig Godmare, the Tomaich family and the Dundas Family**

*A brief silence.*

O benevolent God, in your steadfast love,  
**have mercy on us.**

We lament the hopelessness that afflicts so many people. We lament the anguish of refugee camps, of overcrowded hospitals, of unhappy homes. And we pray: As this Thursday we celebrate the annunciation of the birth of Jesus to Mary, instill in us gratitude for your presence among humankind, for holding us through sorrow, and for leading us into joy.

*A brief silence.*

O compassionate God, in your steadfast love,  
**have mercy on us.**

We lament our secret sorrows known only to you, and we ask you to receive the prayers of our hearts.

*A longer period of silence.*

O mothering God, in your steadfast love,  
**have mercy on us.**

We lament the countless who have died of COVID and the diminishment of life that so many have endured. We praise you for those who have given us words for our lament and our praise. At the end, bring us with all who have died in Christ into your everlasting presence.

*A brief silence.*

O everlasting God, in your steadfast love,  
**have mercy on us.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, Father of glory, in your bountiful Spirit, and in the name of Christ, our great high priest, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (all are invited to unmute)**

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**P: 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.**

**LENTEN PRAYER**

Mender of division, you sent Christ to heal the world and to gather those on the margins. Bring your healing power to us. May we extend your power and grace to those separated from their communities and those long for a tangible sign of your love. In Jesus’ name we pray.  
**Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you that you may be a blessing in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: “God Be With You Til We Meet Again” by Selah**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpaL\\_rjT0I8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpaL_rjT0I8)

**DISMISSAL:**

Go in peace, share the Good News.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**AFTER THOUGHTS**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Life Not Thwarted by Death**

On Ash Wednesday we put ashes on our heads, allowing our truth to be exposed: we are mortal; we are dust. We spoke a confession, and more and more truth bubbled up, truth that so often is suppressed: we are broken; we have fallen short; we are implicated in the muck of systemic sin. On Ash Wednesday we agreed: we are done putting on airs.

Jesus has never been one for putting on airs, and so today we find him living the consequence of a truthful, authentic life. He has raised Lazarus from the dead, he has attracted a following, and the religious authorities are afraid for themselves and their people living under Roman occupation that Jesus is about to bring Rome down upon their heads. They are actively seeking to silence Jesus for the sake of the nation.

We meet Jesus today facing down the choice either to bury his truth in order to stay safe or to let the truth of his life be known and therefore risk being buried. Jesus chooses to let his truth and his light shine, knowing he will be buried for it. Despite the way it troubles his soul, he is clear that this is what he has come to do. Like the wheat seed that dies to create life in a new stalk of grain, Jesus' life will not be thwarted by the threat of death.



When you were baptized, you were baptized into Christ's life; the seed of your life was buried in Christ. When you dine at Christ's table, you take his life into your own. His fearless, free, unearthed, burgeoning life is yours. You are free, O church, from the work of appeasing others, of contorting yourself to stay safe, of quieting your unique and therefore potent voice, of finding creative ways to hide the light that is in you. Your life will not be thwarted by death. So, live.

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