



April 2, 2025

The Fifth Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 560 -Text: Genevieve M. Irons 1855-1928; Public Domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Psalmody *Please Be Seated*

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in

From this time forth and forevermore.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Eternal God, You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son into death for our sin. Take our lives, Lord, and use them to lift up Your Son so that all will be drawn to Him and find eternal life; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn Introduction

The Hymn

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

- ♪ Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.
- ♪ Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner’s deep distress.
- ♪ Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior’s side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423 -Text: Girolamo Savonarola 1452-98; tr. James F. Wilde 1826-96; Public Domain

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 28:10–22

¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹²And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! ¹³And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” ¹⁶Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” ¹⁷And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” ¹⁸So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. ²⁰Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, ²²and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”

Prayer Response

The Epistle

Ephesians 2:11–22

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to

those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Gradual Hymn

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

- ♪ In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.
- ♪ When the woes of life o’ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- ♪ When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.
- ♪ Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 427-Text: John Bowring 1792-1872; Public Domain

Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Luke 23:18–31

¹⁸But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”—¹⁹a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²²A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” ²³But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

²⁶And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Apostles’ Creed

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 436 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854; Public Domain

Proclamation of the Word

“Jesus: Our Ladder”

Luke 23:18–31

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

- ♪ Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.
- ♪ Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
- ♪ Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion.
- ♪ Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?
- ♪ If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!
- ♪ Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 440 -Text: Sigismund von Birken 1626-81; tr. August Crull 1845-1923; Public Domain.

Door Offering