



April 6, 2025

The Sixth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Lift High the Cross”

~Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

♪ Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,

Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Lift high...

♪ Led on their way by this triumphant sign,

The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. ~Lift high...

♪ All newborn soldiers of the Crucified

Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ~Lift high...

♪ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,

As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ~Lift high...

♪ Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell

Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ~Lift high...

♪ So shall our song of triumph ever be:

Praise to the Crucified for victory! ~Lift high....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 837-Text: George W. Kitchin 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt 1874-1956;
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Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

The Lord has done great things for us;

We are glad.

Psalms 126:3

Confession and Absolution

As the Lord God delivered His chosen people from Egyptian slavery through the sea yet on dry ground, and as He delivered His chosen people from their captivity in Babylon of old, so has He now delivered His chosen people to this day from slavery to sin and death through the cross and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Remembering that your Holy Baptism is still a present reality today, let us return to the Lord our God in true repentance and faith.

Lord God, we confess that we have sinned against You and have fallen back into our old ways of neglecting You and our love for our neighbor. Create a new heart and spirit within us and make us to be Your new creation by faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live under Him and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness both today and forever. Amen.

A Time of Silence

But now thus says the Lord, He who created you and formed you, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.”

Isaiah 43:1

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be on Your people!

Psalm 3:8

But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory and the lifter of my head.

I cried aloud to the Lord, and He answered me from His holy hill.

I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

I will not be afraid of many thousands of people, who have set themselves against me all around.

Psalm 3:3-6

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.

Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be on Your people!

Psalm 3:8

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

Isaiah 43:16–21

¹⁶Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

¹⁷who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.

¹⁹Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

²⁰The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches,

for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

The Epistle

Philippians 3:4b–14

^{4b}If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gradual Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

- ♪ Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.
- ♪ All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Please Stand

- ♪ Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountain-head of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav’n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 803 -Text: Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933; Public Domain.

Holy Gospel

Luke 20:9–20

⁹And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹²And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ ¹⁴But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ ¹⁵And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenants

and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!”¹⁷ But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’?”

¹⁸Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

¹⁹The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. ²⁰So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul”

- ♪ Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev’ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; your God will undertake To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears. Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; the hour is hast’ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 752-Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel 1697-1752,
tr. Jane L. Borthwick 1813-97; Public Domain.

Proclamation of the Word

“Old Burnt Kernels”

Isaiah 43:16–21

Nicene Creed

Offering and Musical Offering

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

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary," Hymn 423

- ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God, Heav'n and earth Your glory show.
With the life and breath You've given We Your name praise here below
Sing hosanna, blest is He who Comes to us, our Savior dear.
Sing hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna far and near.

Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary," Hymn 423

- ♪ Jesus, Lamb of God, our Savior, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Jesus, Lamb of God, Redeemer, Savior from the world above,
Jesus, Lamb of God our Savior, take our sins from us away.
Comfort us by Your sweet presence. Grant us peace to us today.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"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!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 430 -Text: Samuel Crossman c.1624-83; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

And His mercy endureth forever.

Psalm 106:1

We give thanks to You, almighty God, for sending Your Son, our Lord, to be both a sacrifice for our sin and a model of the godly life. By His body and blood, strengthen our faith to stand steadfast as inheritors of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

- ♪ Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.
- ♪ Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
- ♪ Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.
- ♪ They that drink shall live forever; ’Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 435 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854; Public Domain.

Postlude