



March 21, 2021

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

At Home Worship
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Closter, New Jersey

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

Congregation O Lord, who could stand?

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

Congregation therefore You are feared.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

Congregation I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

ENTRANCE HYMN***Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty***

1. **Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light and grace!**
2. **Gracious God, I come before Thee;
Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!**
3. **Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.**
4. **Thou my faith increase and quicken;
Let me keep Thy gift divine,
How-so-e'er temptations thicken;
May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And with your spirit.

Pastor 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.

Congregation Amen.

READINGS

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares 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.³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10

- ¹ For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.² He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.³ Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.⁴ And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.
- ⁵ So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,
"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";
- ⁶ as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek."
- ⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter ten, beginning at verse thirty-five.

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."³⁶ And he said to them, "**What do you want me to do for you?**"³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."³⁸ Jesus said to them, "**You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?**"³⁹ And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "**The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,**⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John.⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "**You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.**⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

After the reading:

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed*

- 1. Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast blest
With healing gifts for souls distress,
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ Crucified, I come.**
- 2. Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, My misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ Crucified, I come.**
- 3. Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ Crucified, I
come.**
- 4. 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

after each portion of the prayer:

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation hear our prayer.

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

Congregation Amen.

LITANY (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

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

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor 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.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

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

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

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

(Silence for meditation)

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

Congregation To You, O Lord.

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Congregation Amen.

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Pastor Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

Congregation Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Abide, O Dearest Jesus*

- 1. Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Your grace,
That Satan may not harm us,
Nor we to sin give place.**
- 2. Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.**
- 3. Abide with heav'nly brightness
Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us
From error's gloomy night.**
- 4. Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Your Word.**
- 5. Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our Strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.**
- 6. Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness, and help us
To reach our home above.**

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We remember our nation and many nations, as terrorism remains a threat, and service in Afghanistan continues to be a danger. We pray for the safety of both soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan, and around the world. We pray for peace in the Mideast. We pray for God's help and protection for persecuted Christians throughout the world. We pray for victims of natural disasters throughout the world. We pray for victims of violence (and their loved ones) around the world. We pray for our nation and world as we continue in care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray for our church leaders and their loved ones, and our sister churches and their outreach: Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President; Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn, our District President; and the African Immigrant congregations and missions. We pray for Rev. Dan Fenco and the Camino De Fe mission, Rev. Matt and Nyssa Lytikainen and Mile Square Church in Hoboken, Rev. Matthew Hass (pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor, NJ), and Naomi Vogt (serving as a teacher in Shanghai). We pray for Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner, missionaries in Israel. We pray for the Comfort Dog Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge. We pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries. We pray for St. Paul's families. We pray for St. Paul's youth and their parents. We pray for St. Paul's Sunday School. We pray for St. Paul's Bible Studies. We pray for those suffering from addiction.

We pray for those serving in the military: Capt. John Beddoe, Capt. Mark Buckman, Maj. Jake Butz, Cmdr. Jeff Dermody, Brian Grotz, Rolly Jarmin, Capt. Timothy Kuppler, Cmdr. Jeffrey Morin, T. Sgt. Ruth Presto, Laura Scott, Capt. Rance Thompson, 2nd Lt. John Trainor, Lt. David West and Shane Wojnar, serving with the Armed Forces (and all who serve in the Armed Forces).

We pray for our college and graduate students: Arianna Cavalli, Valerie Costeniuc, Sam del Corral, Lauren Graesser, Megan Hamlett, Alison Keil, David Keil, Kylie Keil, Casey and Courtney Luikert, Giulia Nicolai, Matthew Rojas, Brianna Ross, Emily Sposa, and James Steindl.

We pray for help, healing and God's loving care in the lives of our loved ones: Beau Bowman, Ron Cavalli, Dan Cinquegrana, John Difabio, Bette Eifert, Jenna Forbes, Pat Gianotti, Marilyn Grieco, BJ Heinz, Christopher Huss, June Kuhn, Lois Lake, Doris Lange, Fran Lelkendey, Gary Lopes, Ruth McReynolds, Ed Miller, Linda Sue Olsen, Bev Otten, Danielle Potocek, José Rojas, Gloria Rubner, Irma Schmuck, Delaney Westenhiser, and Anna Zulli

ST. PAUL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH is Closter Welfare.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, March 21

9:00 AM – Bible Study

10:00 AM – Communion Service

10:15 AM – Online Worship Service

Wednesday, March 24

4:15 PM – Confirmation Class