

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Fifth Sunday in Lent – Judica (Judge)

March 26, 2023

Divine Service, Setting Three

As We Gather

“The final stage in the journey of Lent toward Easter is Passiontide, which will begin this coming Sunday. Judica is the 5th Sunday in Lent, also called ‘Passion Sunday.’

“The intensity thus builds from Passion Sunday until the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday, when we finally arrive with the women at the empty tomb to observe, during the Service, the point at which Lent ends and Easter begins.

“Throughout Passiontide, which leads intensely to its close, there are therefore additional modes of “fasting,” although we hasten to add that it is never appropriate to “fast” from the Blessed Sacrament, since we confess that even in our darkest moments Christ is always with us, especially when we arrive at the Altar. He is always there for us in His life-giving, sin-forgiving, holy Body and Blood.

“At the very conclusion of Passiontide and of Lent itself, the lights are turned up and the announcement breaks forth, “Christ is risen!” to which comes the hearty reply, ‘He is risen indeed. Alleluia!’”

- Quoted from <https://www.gottesdienst.org/gottesblog/2021/3/15/passiontide>; retrieved March 24, 2023.

547 The Lamb



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.



Refrain
Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

Text and tune: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953

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Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. 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.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 43:3–5; antiphon: vv. 1–2a

- P** Vindicate me, | O God,*
 and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,
 from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*
- For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.
- C** **Send out your light and your truth; let them | lead me;***
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your | dwelling!
- P** Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my ex- | ceeding joy,*
 and I will praise you with the lyre, O | God, my God.
- C** **Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?***
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation | and my God.
- P** Vindicate me, | O God,*
 and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,
 from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*
- For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

Kyrie

LSB 186

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**
P 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.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1–19

R The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 22.

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” ¹⁹So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–15

R The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapter 9.

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

430 My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
 spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 Who at my need His life did spend!
 And for His death They thirst and cry.
 Them-selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683
 Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962
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Sermon

But Jesus hid Himself

Offering

902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now sts. 1–3

Stand

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the whole Church of Christ on earth, that God, who has received His Son again into the more perfect tent of heaven, would give peace in the knowledge that our consciences are purified and our eternal inheritance is assured, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For God's holy people, cleansed and redeemed by the blood of His Son, that as priests serving under our High Priest, we may now offer living sacrifices in prayer and good works, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all godly parents, that they may direct their ways according to the Scriptures and commend their children to the care of our God and Father, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For Joseph, our president; _____, our governor; and all civil authorities, that our nation would be preserved in peace and all Christians be allowed to live quiet and peaceable lives in godliness and honesty, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all souls in turmoil, [*especially* _____,] that they would receive the vindication of God, trust in the light of His truth and find joy in Him despite all sorrows, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For courage, that God would deliver us from fear, give us boldness to confess His saving truth, and assure us of His deliverance in time of trouble, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- 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.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow



1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
 2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
 3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
 4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,



Where the blood of Christ was shed,
 Throned in light ere worlds could be,
 O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
 Where the blood of Christ was shed,



Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
 Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
 Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing
 Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,



Per - fect God on thee has bled!
 Cru - ci - fied by thee for me.
 All the suf - fer - ings of time!
 Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860–1952
 Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901
 Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Exodus at **9am** on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory for Monroe Reich's son's birthday.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am**. They are studying the book of Joshua.

Church Council next meeting is **Apr 16** at **8am**.

Lenten Vespers services are **Mar 29**. A light meal will be at **6:30pm** with service at **7pm**.

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday combined service is **April 6** at **6pm**.

Easter Breakfast is on **Apr 9** at **8:30am** before our **10am Divine Service**. We will not have Sunday School that day.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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