+ Holy Cross Lutheran Church +

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Pastor Mark Huston 903-603-5071

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.'

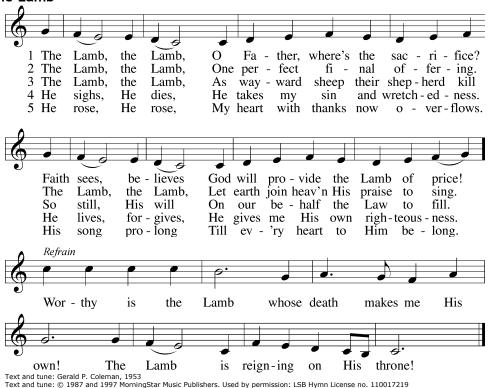
"The intensity thus builds from Passion Sunday until the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday, when we finally arrive with the women at the empty tomb to observe, during the Service, the point at which Lent ends and Easter begins.

"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



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,
- 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,
- 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

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.

- 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.
- 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

Introit

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.

LSB 186

Psalm 43:3-5; antiphon: vv. 1-2a

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

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.

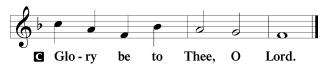
R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel John 8:46–59

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.



Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵²The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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.

430 My Song Is Love Unknown



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.
- 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

Offertory LSB 192



Prayer of the Church

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 LSB 196

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.

- **G** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- 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.

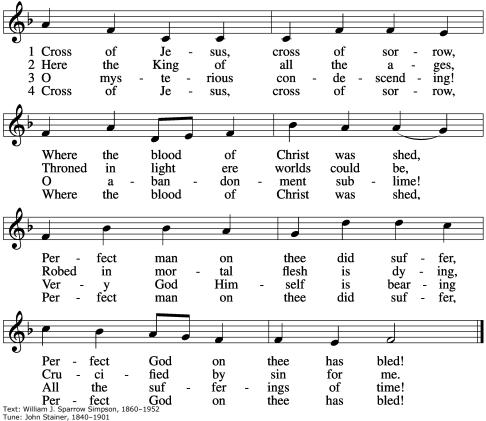
Benediction LSB 202

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.



428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow



Tune: John Stainer, 1840–190 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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