



# **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

March 21, 2021

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Prospect Heights, IL

Office: 847-537-4430

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

*Rev. Jim Kirschenmann, Vacancy Pastor*

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## Greatness Upside-Down

### As We Gather

The ancient name for today, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, is Judica, the Latin behind “vindicate.” Jesus predicted was about to happen – this vindication – and more... Yet despite all the miracles they see, the disciples repeatedly fail to grasp and trust his promises. When we are tempted to think, “My faith would be stronger if I’d been there,” Mark reminds us that seeing is not believing. We ourselves often do not see Jesus as we should. Instead, through rich language and masterful narration, Mark directs our eyes toward the cross, where with the eyes of faith we will truly see the Son of God in his glory.

## PREPARATION

### Opening Hymn 424 O Christ, You Walked the Road

- 1 O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand’ring feet must go.  
You faced with us temptation’s pow’r  
And fought our ancient foe.
- 2 No bread of earth alone  
Can fill our hung’ring hearts.  
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,  
The food Your grace imparts.
- 3 No blinding sign we ask,  
No wonder from above.  
Lord, help us place our trust alone  
In Your unswerving love.
- 4 When lures of easy gain  
With promise brightly shine,  
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;  
Our wills with Yours align.
- 5 O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand’ring feet must go.  
Stay with us through temptation’s hour  
To fight our ancient foe.

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### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### Opening Sentences

*Jeremiah 31:31, 33; Mark 10:43–44*

- P The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant.  
C **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.**
- P And I will be their God,  
C **and they shall be My people.**
- P Whoever would be great among you must be your servant,  
C **and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 5:9*

P Bearing our sins and in need of a Savior, let us go to our heavenly Father, asking for forgiveness.

*Time for reflection on the word of God and for personal examination.*

P Most merciful, heavenly Father, You promised a covenant written on Your people's hearts.

C **But we do not always rely on Your promises and great love. We are sorry.**

P Gracious Holy Spirit, through Your use of Word and Sacrament, many people know the Lord.

C **But we have not taken advantage of every opportunity to share Your Word with others. We are sorry.**

P Jesus taught that the greatest in the Kingdom is the servant of all.

C **But our hearts have not always been humble and eager for service. We are sorry. Our thoughts, words, and deeds fall short. As fallen sinners, we are helpless to change. For Jesus' sake, forgive us, and give us new and clean hearts to love You and serve our neighbors.**

P God promised in the new covenant, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." In the sacrifice of Himself, Jesus, being perfect, "became the source of eternal salvation." As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## Introit

*Psalm 116:1-4, 8; antiphon: Psalm 43:1*

P Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people,

C **from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!**

P I love the LORD, because he has heard

C **my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

P Because he inclined his ear to me,\*

C **therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

P The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

C **I suffered distress and anguish.**

P Then I called on the name of the LORD:

C **"O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"**

P For you have delivered my soul from death,

C **my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

C **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.**

P Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people,\*

C **from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!**

## Kyrie

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For peace in our hearts, knowing that salvation is sure, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For peace among the nations and the growth of the Church in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Church here and wherever God's people gather for praise and worship, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Amen.**

## Salutation

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

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

## Old Testament Reading

*Jeremiah 31:31–34*

<sup>31</sup>“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, <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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.”

- P This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Hebrews 5:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. <sup>3</sup>Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. <sup>4</sup>And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

<sup>5</sup>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”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
after the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup>And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## Verse

*Mark 10:45*

- P Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

## Holy Gospel

Mark 15:15--32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

.” <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup>And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. <sup>22</sup>And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. <sup>25</sup>And it was the third hour when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>And the inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!” <sup>31</sup>So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Hymn of the Day 432 In Silent Pain the Eternal Son

- 1 In silent pain the\_ eternal Son  
Hangs derelict and still;  
In darkened day His work is done,  
Fulfilled, His Father’s will.  
Uplifted for the world to see  
He hangs in strangest victory,  
For in His body on the tree  
He carries all our ill.
- 2 He died that we might die to sin  
And live for righteousness;  
The earth is stained to make us clean  
And bring us into peace.  
For peace He came and met its cost;  
He gave Himself to save the lost;  
He loved us to the uttermost  
And paid for our release.
- 3 For strife He came to bring a sword,  
The truth to end all lies;  
To rule in us, our patient Lord,  
Until all evil dies:  
For in His hand He holds the stars,  
His voice shall speak to end our wars,  
And those who love Him see His scars  
And look into His eyes.

## Sermon "Golgotha – When Seeing Contradicts Believing"

### Creed

C I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

For the Church here and wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament, that God would move us to true repentance so that we reflect in our lives the love that He has written on our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Loving Father, hear our prayer.**

P For the clergy and lay leaders of the Church, that God would help them call the repentant back, enable healing across painful divisions, and teach catechumens of all ages the message of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Have mercy on us, O Holy Spirit.**

P That our Lord would bring about understanding across political borders, between racial, generational, economic, and cultural differences, and within families of all sizes and shapes, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord of the nations and Prince of Peace, listen to our plea.**

P For teachers and students, social workers and counselors, police and all first responders, that God would keep them safe and healthy, guiding them in crises and sustaining them in chronic problems, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Father in heaven, hear our prayer.**

- P For all who are in exile from home, those who have been incarcerated, and any who have not been treated with human dignity, that God would surround them with supportive individuals and organizations, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Spirit of truth, increase their patience and hope that many may rejoice together.**
- P For those near and dear to us, *including* Hedy Beer, Kathleen, Alicia, Sallyann, Sheila, Kathie Kirschenmann, Lou, Jean Staffa, Dana, Kaylee, Leah, Terri, Rory, Jean, Annette Kirschenmann, Ray Wirsing, Rod Isaacson, Sharlene, Fran, Doug, Wally Olson, and Pastor Barber and his family\_and people everywhere who seek healing and peace, and those known only to God, that our Lord would heal, restore, and console them, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord Jesus, come to their aid.**
- P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

## SACRAMENT

### Preface

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### Proper Preface

- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

- C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessèd, blessèd, blessèd is He  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, for in sending us Your Son to die and rise for us You not only gave us eternal salvation but revealed to us Your immeasurable love. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, Father, so that we might emulate our Savior's great love and service as we respond to Your grace and mercy. Strengthen us now through this Sacrament of His body and blood; grant that in true faith we receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation You so graciously bestow upon us here. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

### Words of Our Lord

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Proclamation of Christ**

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

C **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.**

### **Pax Domini**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

## **We Receive the True Body and True Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

### **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

P Let us pray.

C We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift,  
**and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

P The Almighty Father, the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One, and the Holy Spirit strengthen you in believing and guard you in peace.

C **Amen.**



## Closing Hymn 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,  
See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;  
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,  
David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it:  
'Tis the true and faithful Word.
  
- 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,  
Was there ever grief like His?  
Friends through fear His cause disowning,  
Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him,  
None would intervene to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him  
Was the stroke that justice gave.
  
- 3 Ye who think of sin but lightly  
Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly,  
Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed,  
See who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,  
Son of Man and Son of God.
  
- 4 Here we have a firm foundation,  
Here the refuge of the lost:  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,  
Is the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,  
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded  
Who on Him their hope have built.

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## Dismissal

- P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God!**

## Acknowledgments

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## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Easter Lilies**

If you are interested in decorating our Sanctuary for Easter, please see Laurie on Sunday or call her in the Church Office. Last day to order will be Sunday, March 28. You will be able to take your lilies home after Easter Sunday service.

### **Midweek (Wednesday) devotions through Lent:**

**Schedule: Wednesdays February 24 – March 24, 2021**

**7:00 to 7:45 pm:** Devotions Online, with discussion following

**Website:** <https://Koinonia.ClickMeeting.com>

**Look for: Lenten Midweek Devotions and click the button to [Join]**

**Phone-in Chicago: +1 (312) 702-1380**

**Participant PIN: 817491474#**

**Event ID: 877-837-975**

- The Pastor-Led Bible Studies on Wednesday evenings will be suspended during Lent, allowing for MidWeek Lenten Devotions on Wednesdays through the week prior to Holy Week (March 28-April 4). Pastor-Led Bible Studies will resume on Wednesdays, starting on April 21, 2021.

### **Worship:**

If you are planning to attend in person worship, please register each week using the link below.

<https://rsvp.church/r/PsLbwYgP>

If you find you can't attend after registering, you can go to your confirmation email and remove yourself or indicate to Jim that you are not coming.

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube Live and recorded and published on YouTube.

Please dispose of your worship bulletin (and Communion supplies) or take them with you. We are not recycling them.

We are resuming the use of the mailboxes upstairs, so please check yours for the March Monthly News and calendar.

### **Altar Flowers:**

We have resumed our Altar Flower program. Anyone interested in ordering flowers for the Church Altar, please contact Laurie in the Church Office at 847/537-4430 or

[office@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:office@ourredeemerprospectheights.org)

### **Online Giving:**

We are now set up for Online Giving on our website as well as in Breeze. If you haven't set up your personal Breeze account, please do so using the email invite that was sent out to you. Setting up your account allows you to update your personal contact information and allows access to online giving. If you need another invitation or need help setting it up, please contact Jim Burmeister at [elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org) or (847) 934-5963.

**Email address for Pastor Jim:**

If you would like to send an email to Pastor Jim, please use the following address:  
[Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org).

**Prayer Request Information:**

If you have a prayer request, please notify Jim Burmeister via text at (847) 343-3798, Phone (847)934-5963 home or (847)343-3798 cell; or via email at [elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org).

**Are you a Thrivent Member?**

Have you directed your Choice Dollars? Please remember to check your Thrivent account at least on an annual basis and indicate where you would like to have them directed. Both Our Redeemer and Sonshine are included in the recognized recipients and would appreciate being designated. Thrivent provides this free of charge to members, so remember to take advantage of their generosity!



**Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM**

**Holy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 7:00 PM**

**Good Friday Tre Ore, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM**