

The Fifth Sunday In Lent
April 3, 2022

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

580 Trinity Drive ❖ Vacaville, CA 95687 ❖ (707) 448-8599



TRADITIONAL WORSHIP + 8:30 AM page 3
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP + 10:30 AM page 13

INTRODUCTION

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus’ feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God’s new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

YOUR COURTESY IS REQUESTED

In order to provide a worshipful experience for everyone, please turn off the ringer on your cellular phone. If you truly need to be accessible during the next hour, please use the ‘vibrate-only’ setting so as not to disturb those sitting around you.

Congregational Steering Team 2022

President	John Erickson
Secretary	Jeanne Meyers
Treasurer	Judy Horan
Education	Laura Barton
Outreach	Chris Curtis
Operations	Stan Stolte
Congregational Life	Pat Alvestad
Stewardship	Glenn Wylie
Missions	Joyce Reed
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Large Print bulletins are available from the ushers

Free WiFi is available for your convenience. Use #discovertheshepherd when tagging the church on social media. Login: SOH Guest P SOHGuest; Password: SOHGuest

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We exist to proclaim the message of salvation in Christ through joyful worship, quality education and loving service

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able

P This is the day that the Lord has made:

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps 118:24)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

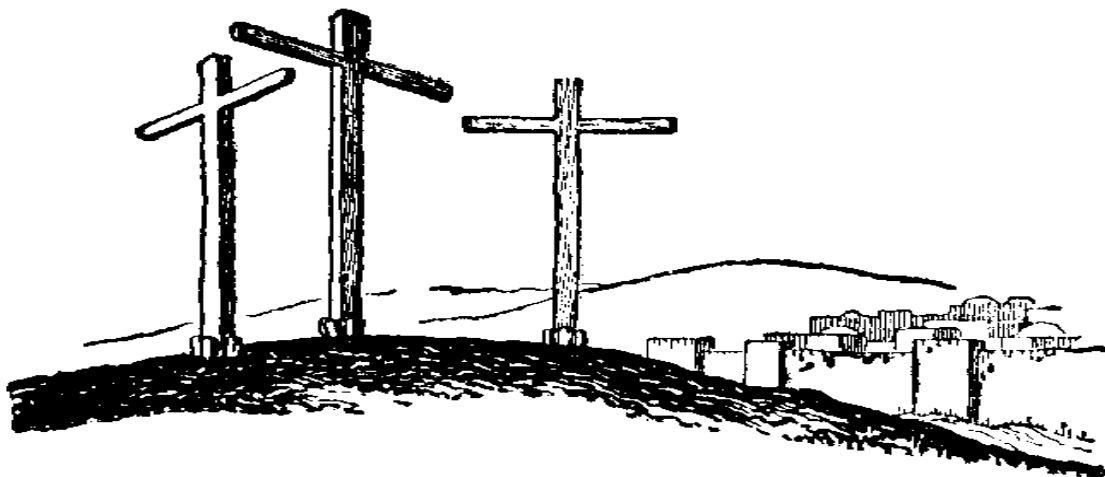
Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

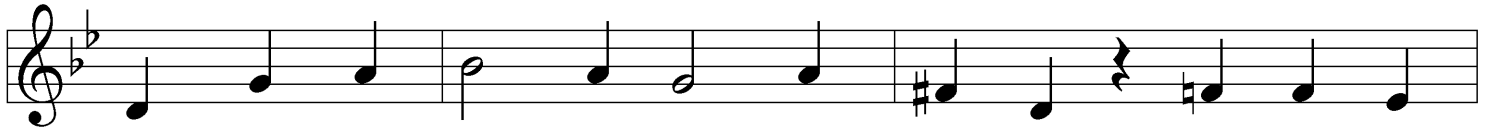
P Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C Amen.



GATHERING HYMN

IF YOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU



1 If you but trust in God to guide you and place your
 2 What gain is there in fu - tile weep - ing, in help - less
 3 In pa - tient trust a - wait his lei - sure in cheer - ful
 4 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



con - fi - dence in him, you'll find him al - ways there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in his care and
 hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er your Fa - ther's
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly, and trust his word; though un - de -



side you, to give you hope and strength with - in. For those who
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For he who
 plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love have sent; doubt not your
 serv - ing, you'll find his prom - ise true to be. God nev - er



trust God's change-less love build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 in - most wants are known to him who chose you for his own.
 will for - sake in need the soul that trusts in him in - deed.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite, alt.

Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark, 1621–1681

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GREETING

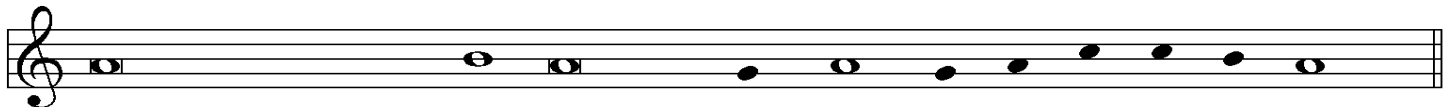
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



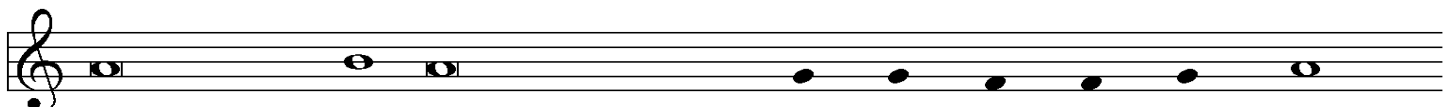
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



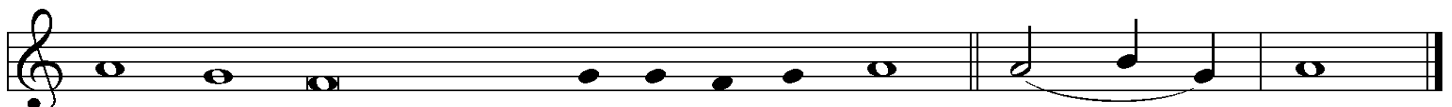
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Creator God,

C you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

Please stand for the Gospel reading as you are able

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 12:1-8

PAGE 20

Please be seated

SERMON

"SOW WITH TEARS, REAP WITH JOY"

PR. SCOT SORENSEN

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, since you are our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, pil - grims here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Fa - ther's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 then by grace we all may win un - told fruits of his cre - a - tion.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, un - to you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, if I faith - ful be, life e - ter - nal grant to me.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated

MINISTRY MOMENTS (ANNOUNCEMENTS)

OFFERING *(Please place your offerings in the collection plate located by the doors as you exit)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

WORSHIP TEAM

OFFERING PRAYER

P Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

Please stand as you are able

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise. Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.
Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise.
With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.
With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.
With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus, the Holy One.
With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family.
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.
With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed,...
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes, we break this bread and share this cup, remembering the death and resurrection of Christ, and his promise to be with us always as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**C Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P Come down, O Love divine.
Come among us, O passionate Fire.
Come within us, O Spirit of unity.
Come, Holy Spirit.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P At this table make us your body.
Form us to be people of justice and peace.
Fill us with gratitude and generosity
that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.
Come, Holy Spirit.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Praise to you, Author of creation.
Praise to you, O Beloved One.
Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.
Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity,
one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

We invite all baptized Christians who desire God's presence and forgiveness in their life to receive Communion. The tray contains your choice of white grape juice (in the center) or wine. Gluten-free wafers are available. Children are encouraged to come forward for a blessing.

Please be seated

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD



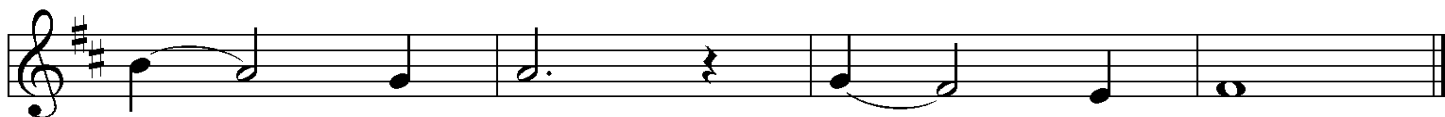
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



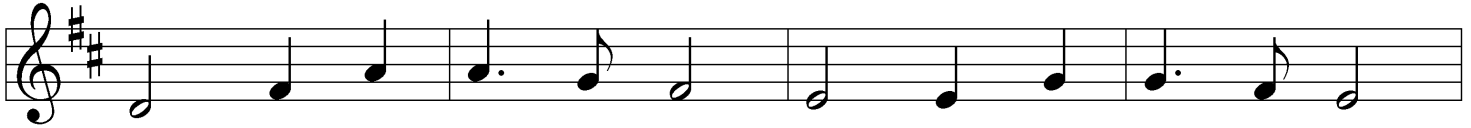
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

C Amen.

BLESSING OF THE PILLOW CASES MADE BY CASE FOR HOPE

BENEDICTION

P You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, † bless you this day and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

LORD OF LIGHT



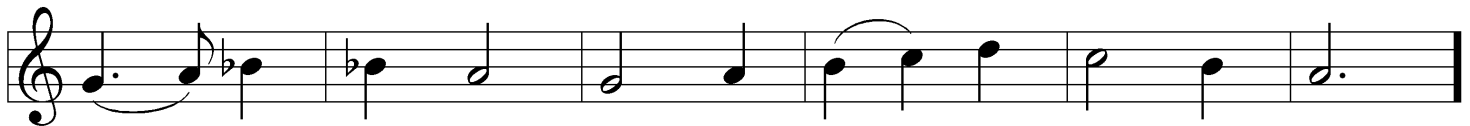
1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Fifth Sunday In Lent
April 3, 2022

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able

P This is the day that the Lord has made:

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps 118:24)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

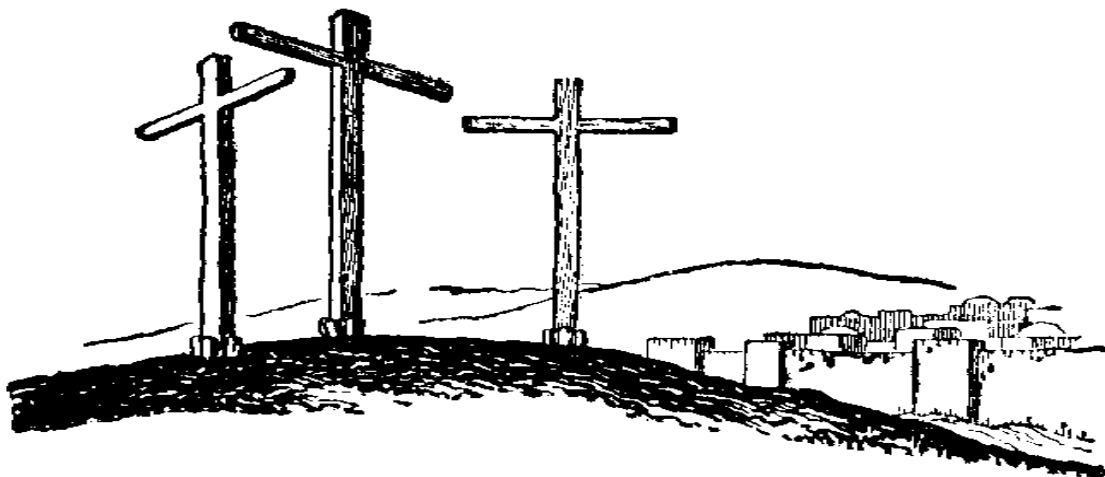
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P Holy One,

C we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C Amen.



GATHERING SONG

1. I'm casting my cares aside
I'm leaving my past behind
I'm setting my heart
and mind on You Jesus
I'm reaching my hands to Yours
Believing there's so much more
Knowing that all You have
in store for me is good
It's good

Chorus 1:

**Today is the day You have made
I will rejoice and be glad in it
Today is the day You have made
I will rejoice and be glad in it
And I won't worry about tomorrow
I'm trusting in what You say
Today is the day today is the day**

2. I'm putting my fears aside
I'm leaving my doubts behind
I'm giving my hopes
and dreams to You Jesus
I'm reaching my hands to Yours
Believing there's so much more
Knowing that all You have
in store for me is good
It's good **Chorus**

TODAY IS THE DAY

Bridge:

I will stand upon Your truth
(I will stand upon Your truth)
And all my days I'll live for You
(All my days I'll live for You) *Repeat*

Chorus 2

**Today is the day You have made
I will rejoice and be glad in it
Today is the day You have made
I will rejoice and be glad in it
I won't worry about tomorrow
I'm giving You my fears and sorrows
Where You lead me I will follow
I'm trusting in what You say
Today is the day (5X)**

Lincoln Brewster, Paul Beloeche, 2008 Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Leadworship Songs (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Used by permission CCLI license No. 759240. CCLI Song #5200924

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Creator God,

C you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are excused for Sunday School

PR. SCOT SORENSEN

Please stand for the Gospel reading as you are able

GOSPEL VERSE

C Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart Oh, let the Ancient words impart.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you;
We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words impart.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 12:1-8

PAGE 20

Please be seated

SERMON

"SOW WITH TEARS, REAP WITH JOY"

PR. SCOT SORENSEN

Please stand as you are able

SONG OF THE DAY

THE SERVANT SONG

1. Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ light for you
In the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
'Til we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

(Repeat Verse 1)

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated

MINISTRY MOMENTS (ANNOUNCEMENTS)

OFFERING *(Please place your offerings in the collection plate located by the doors as you exit)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

WORSHIP TEAM

OFFERING PRAYER

P Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.
C Amen.

Please stand as you are able

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

We invite all baptized Christians who desire God's presence and forgiveness in their life to receive Communion. The tray contains your choice of white grape juice (in the center) or wine. Gluten-free wafers are available. Children are encouraged to come forward for a blessing.

If you are worshiping in your homes, you are invited to commune each other, or to take communion yourself. You may use these words:

The body of the Christ, given for you. The blood of the Christ, shed for you.

For those abstaining from communion, I invite you to offer a blessing to each other. Here are two options:

1. *Marking the forehead in the sign of the cross and saying:*

(Name) child of God, know that you are loved and protected by God.

2. *Prayer for those abstaining from Communion:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

1. How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory.

2. Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

3. I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

C Amen.

BLESSING OF THE PILLOW CASES MADE BY CASE FOR HOPE

BENEDICTION

P You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, † bless you this day and always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

1. Love the Lord Your God with all your / heart
With all your soul
With all your Mind
With all your Strength

(Repeat)

Chorus 1

**With all your (Heart / Soul / Mind / Strength)
Love the Lord Your God
with all your (Heart / Soul / Mind / Strength)**

2. I will serve the Lord
With all my (Heart / Soul / Mind / Strength)

(Repeat)

Chorus 2

**With all my (Heart / Soul / Mind / Strength)
I will serve the Lord
with all my (Heart / Soul / Mind / Strength)**

Bridge

I will (Love / Praise / Serve / Trust) You.

(Answer)

Chorus 3

**With all my (Heart / Soul / Mind / Strength) *(Repeat)*
I will love the Lord
with all my (Heart / Soul / Mind / Strength) *(Repeat)***

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

- ¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹I am about to do 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 animals 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
so that they might declare my praise.

R Word of God, word of life

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

Refrain: sung first by Cantor, then by all

**C The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with gladness and joy,
we are filled with gladness and joy.**

Verses sung by Cantor

1. When God set the captives of Zion free, we were more like children in a dream.
Then you could hear our laughter and cheers; then you could hear our shouts of joy.
2. They said in amazement to the world, "Indeed God has done great things for them."
Truly our God has done great things, and so we are glad, we shout for joy.
3. Restore all our fortunes, God of love, like rivers that save the desert lands.
Those who have gone to sow in tears shall go back to reap with songs of joy.

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard 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 one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this 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 heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

JOHN 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P The Gospel of our Lord

C Praise to You, O Christ