

March 26, 2023 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Opening Hymn *At the foot of the cross*

At the foot of the cross, I can hardly take it in, that the King of all creation was dying for my sin; and the pain and agony, and the thorns that pierced your head, and the hardness of my sinful heart that left you there for dead. And, oh, what mercy I have found at the cross of Calvary; I will never know your loneliness, all on account of me. And I will bow my knee before your throne, 'cause your love has set me free; and I will give my life to you, dear Lord, and praise your majesty, and praise your majesty, and praise your majesty.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces us with divine mercy, † forgives us in Christ's name, and revives us in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

Greeting

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

Kyrie eleison

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, **your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading – Ezekiel 37:1-14 *The dry bones of Israel brought to life*

Psalms: Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.
I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep

watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.
For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Gospel: John 11:1-45 *Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus*

Message

Hymn of the Day *Lamb of God*

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2 Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died. The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*

Prayers of the People

Response: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Giving Prayer

God of good gifts, **receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

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.

Announcements

Blessing

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless us in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

Closing Hymn *I will sing of the mercies of the Lord*

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies Lord. With my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness. With my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**