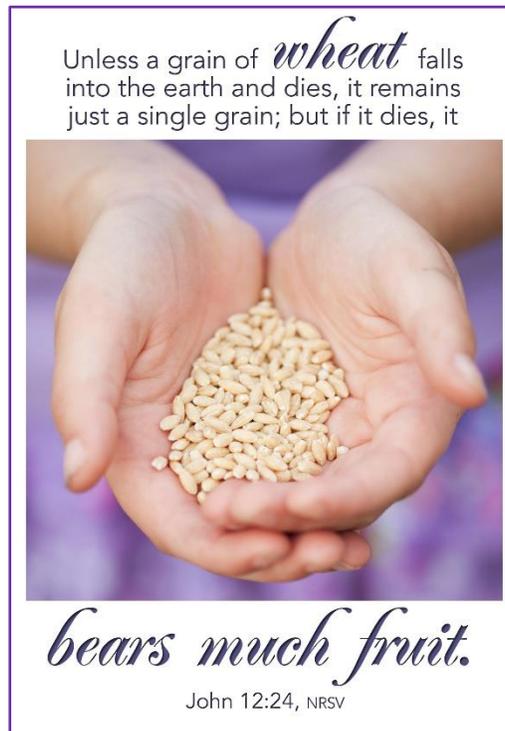


**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Sunday, March 21, 2021
5th Sunday in Lent**

Thought – The cross of Christ is a sign of just how far God will go to love. In the cross, and in his ignominious death, Jesus Christ is somehow solving the problems between us and God. God meets our repeated rejection, rebellion, and sin with his death upon the cross. Although we are unable fully to explain or rationally comprehend just how the cross is sign of our salvation in Christ, when we gaze upon the cross, when we stand at the foot of the cross, we have the surest sign and reassurance of God’s love for us.

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston



God is Seen (Concordia Choir)

<https://youtu.be/UGplG93opl0>

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace – “*virtually*”

Call to Worship – “Humble”

A: On the way to the cross, our Lord lived a humble life. We celebrate the character of Christ’s humble ways this Lent, seeking to make his ways our own as we follow him.

A brief silence.

A: Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,

C: and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

A: When Jesus had finished washing the disciples’ feet, he said, “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,

C: you also should wash one another’s feet.”

A: Jesus said to his disciples, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.”

**C: This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:
“See, your king comes to you, humble and riding on a donkey.”**

A: In the way that we do not seek to be first among others,

C: let us live out the character of Christ on our humble ways.

A: In the way we do not shy away from doing the work of a servant,

C: let us live out the character of Christ in our humble way.

A: In the way we choose the lesser place that Christ may be glorified,

C: let us live out the character of Christ in our humble way.

Gathering Music – Create in Me & Have Thine Own Way

Sounds Like Reign

<https://youtu.be/uurY-GHKBO0>

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

P: The closer we draw to Jerusalem and to his final confrontation with earthly power, the less we like what we see in Jesus, O God. He's saying dangerous things about death and life, and we certainly don't want to be around when the reckoning with the authorities comes –

A time for silence and reflection

P: As it surely must, not only in Jesus' day, but also in our own.

C: Forgive us, we pray, for our insistence upon following the rosy cross of our fantasies, rather than the executioners' cross of your Son. Help us to find new courage and strength, new life amid death, and to take up whatever our cross may be; under the mercy of him who died that we might live, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen and Amen.

Music – I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (Eric Bibb)

https://youtu.be/WvCCRr_Kyx0

Prayer of the Day

A: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers.

C: Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

A New Covenant written on our heart

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says 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. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God

A: ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

**C: ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

A: ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**C: ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

A: ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**C: ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

A: ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**C: ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

A: ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**C: ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

A: ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**C: ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Epistle reading – Hebrews 5:5-10

Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶ as he says also in another place,

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

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – John 12:20-33

The grain of wheat dying in the earth – new life

<https://youtu.be/0f-zPUds7kY>

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children of God

<https://youtu.be/M1oJXzcEEWs>

Homily – “We Wish to See Jesus” – Pastor Barnes

<https://youtu.be/J0uWXaEgym8>

Music – As the Grains of Wheat

<https://youtu.be/GFK2LJIXXbY>

Apostles’ Creed – Luther’s Explanation of the 2nd Article

A: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord.

At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil – not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.

All this he has done that I may be his own, love under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

A: This is most certainly true.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You fill the earth – from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder – with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Offering/Offertory Prayer

A: Almighty God, we need not say, “Know the Lord,”

C: for we all know you.

A: You have made your will known to us,

C: have inscribed it on our hearts.

A: And so we bring these gifts before you.

C: For we know it is your will.

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The 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 our thanks and praise.

Preface

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

Lamb of God – Catholic Mass Song

<https://youtu.be/LcgpnvQPoaQ>

Words of Institution

The 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up
as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Distribution

Communion Music

Remember Me (On the Night He was Betrayed) Mark Tedder

<https://youtu.be/DikS5C6QVE0>

All Who Hunger Gather Gladly – Advocate Virtual Choir

<https://youtu.be/c7iNRyI17PM>

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

A: Lord Jesus Christ, in this meal we see that you,
like a grain of wheat, have died,

C: only to spring to life, in us.

A: Grant us the same hope – that though we die,

C: yet shall we live!

A: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give to you HIS peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sending Music – Beneath the Cross of Jesus

(arr. Mark Hayes TF Singer)

<https://youtu.be/DRSVufDSIUu>

Dismissal

A: Help us to keep Jesus in our hearts, a new covenant,
so we see with all things new.

C: With that vision of love, we go to serve.

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston

