

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024
“Guided to the Cross – Guided to Perseverance”

Theme and Thought: *Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance. Ephesians 6:10, 18*

“When life gets hard (and we know it will), may we FOCUS on Jesus and walk with PERSEVERANCE until we can run the rest of the way.”

Kia Stephens

Prelude – Jill Rimington

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Installation of Congregational Council Members and Officers:

Mark McCarrell - President; Tim Leitner – Vice President; Valerie Gettys - Secretary; Meri Arnold; Mary Sipka; Leo Stiles; Mary Sorenson; Sharon Eggemeyer – Treasurer; Bruce Gettman – Financial Secretary

Sharing of the Peace

P: As we persevere in prayer, Jesus walks with us. May His peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Invocation and Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Jesus repeatedly told his disciples what lay ahead for him. It was the purpose for which he had come. Calling himself the Son of Man, a title for the Messiah from the prophet Daniel, Jesus said, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” (Matthew 17:22-23)

C: Teach us, Lord, to follow you in faithfulness.

L: As the time drew near for Jesus to finish his earthly ministry and to be taken up to heaven, he turned to Jerusalem and to the cross: “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51)

C: When our days are difficult and challenging, Lord Jesus, help us to keep our focus on you.

L: As Jesus began to take his final steps toward the cross, he said, “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” (John 12:27-28)

C: Jesus, in faithfulness, you took up the cross for the sake of our salvation. Set your cross before us to guide us to persevere in faith.

Opening Hymn – “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus” ELW #802 vss. 1-3

<https://youtu.be/IT7FVwcmVYE>
by Saviour of the Nations

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins to God, and ask his forgiveness.
A time of silence for reflection

Almighty God,

C: We are called to persevere in our obedience to your will and your ways, but instead we sin against you. We do not walk in your ways or love others as we should. We are more interested in fulfilling our own desires than serving others and being faithful in your Word. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.

P: God, in his mercy, sent his Son to deliver us. Jesus faithfully obeyed his Father's will and suffered and died to save us. By His sacrifice and gift your sins are forgiven.

C: Lord, lead us to walk faithfully in your ways.

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.

Lenten Response - "Be Thou My Vision" ELW #793

<https://youtu.be/ihJAJA4ibEs>
by Nathan Pacheco music

Prayer of the Day

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

C: Strengthen us and give the gift of perseverance 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.

Preparing for the Word

L: No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord,"

C: for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord;

L: for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:34)

The Word

Old Testament reading – Micah 6:7-8

What does the Lord require of you...but to walk humbly with your God.

"Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm 119:9-16

I treasure your promise in my heart.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to thy word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek thee; let me not wander from thy commandments!

¹¹ I have laid up thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.

¹² Blessed be thou, O LORD; TEACH me thy statutes!

¹³ With my lips I declare all the ordinances of thy mouth.

¹⁴ In the way of thy testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate on thy precepts, and fix my eyes on thy ways.

¹⁶ I will delight in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word.

Epistle reading – Ephesians 6:13-20

<https://youtu.be/fBPd8W5UhbI?si=Yi6ePdo96fW50HYA>

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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

Holy Gospel – John 19:16-22

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

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

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

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/RNIH0r61DXs?si=y3ouTOGKgSXxfNkJ>

Message – “Nevertheless” Heb. 12:1-3

https://youtu.be/Dp2w_fjIZ6M?si=e6EzigCw0q2TB7zS

Hymn of the Day – “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” ELW # 319

<https://youtu.be/fYEOKIhMlZg>

by Presbyterian Church Marion

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead,
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

P: Lord Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem, where you would take up your cross for the sake of our salvation. In faithful obedience to your heavenly Father, you suffered and died to save us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

L: Lord Jesus, when we face difficult days in life, when we are filled with doubt or fear, strengthen us to persevere in faith and to hold fast to the hope and peace that you have brought us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C: Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

L: Lord Jesus, be present with those who face illness, pain and grief, especially *[mention known names of those who are sick, injured or grieving]*and those we name in our hearts. Comfort them through the promises of your Word, and keep them strong in faith. Guide us as we serve them in love. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C: Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

L: Lord Jesus, keep us steadfast in the study of your Word so that we will grow in faith, ready to defend the hope that is ours and to be your witnesses each day. Give us opportunities to speak to others about your redeeming death and triumphant resurrection, so that in the power of the Spirit, they, too, may come to follow you in faith. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C: Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

P Lord Jesus, faithful to your purpose and to your Father's will, you suffered and died to save us. Keep us steadfast in faith, walking in your footsteps, until we live in your presence forever. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C: Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

Amen.

Offering/Offertory Music – “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” ELW #324
vss. 1-2 &4

Offertory Prayer

L: Almighty God, we need not say, "Know the Lord,"

C: for we all know you.

L: You have made your will known to us,

C: have inscribed it on our hearts.

L: And so we bring these gifts before you.

C: For we know it is your will.

L: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

A: Come, Holy Spirit

Consecration

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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Distribution

Communion Music – Jill Rimington

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: 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.

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

C: yet shall we live!

L: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6 – Pastor

Sending Hymn – “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” ELW #800

<https://youtu.be/igV63aKSqb8>
by Presbyterian Church of Marion

Dismissal

L: Living the promise with perseverance we go to serve.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude – Jill Rimington

