



**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**March 21, 2021**

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*A Place for Everyone . . .*

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**MOLLY HAGGERTY, Interim Pastor**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

The *congregation*, or participants, *respond* with the lines in *bold type*.

## PRELUDE

### 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.**

### Litany For The Fifth Sunday Of Lent

During Lent, we remember the events **that led up to the crucifixion**. Jesus had come into the world to bring hope and light, but at every step there were those who could not accept the power of that light. He came to create a new relationship between God and human beings, but there were those who had other ideas. Because he could not be manipulated, they sought to kill him.

In the Gospel of Matthew we read: When Jesus had finished teaching, he said to his disciples, "In two days, as you know, it will be the Passover Festival, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.

The chief priests and the elders met together in the palace of Caiaphas, the High Priest, and made plans to arrest Jesus secretly and put him to death. "We must not do it during the festival," they said, "or the people will riot."

Then one of the twelve disciples the one named Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked, "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?" They counted out thirty silver coins and gave them to him. From then on, Judas was looking for a good chance to hand Jesus over to them.

Betrayed by a kiss from a friend for thirty pieces of silver ...

anyone could have been the one, Jesus came as the truth, but it was too brilliant for those who liked the darkness. As the small bag of coins was traded from hand to hand, a little of the light that had come into the world went out.

*(Extinguish one of the remaining candles  
in the crown of thorns.)*

**HYMN:** *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*  
**(ELW 334 verse 5)**

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



God of all our fear and sor - row, God who



lives be - yond our death, hold us close through each to-



mor - row, love as near as ev - ery breath, love as



near as ev - ery breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: Marty Haugen  
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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. 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.

**C** Amen.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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.

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm: Psalm 119:9-16**

**L/C** by whole verse

<sup>9</sup>How shall the young keep their way clean? By keeping to your word.

<sup>10</sup>**With my whole heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commandments.**

<sup>11</sup>I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup>**Blessed are you, O LORD; instruct me in your statutes.**

<sup>13</sup>With my lips I recite all the judgments of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup>**I take greater delight in the way of your decrees than in all manner of riches.**

<sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways.

<sup>16</sup>**My delight is in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>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”;

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

“You are a priest forever,  
according to 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 the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### MUSICAL OFFERING

### GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

🎵 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to

myself.”<sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

## **GOSPEL RESPONSE**

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON: “RADICAL FAITH” REV. JIM RICHARDS**

*(Silence for a time of reflection)*

## **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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

☒ 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.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☒ 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.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☒ 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.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☒ 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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☒ 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.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**



℣ 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.

☩ **Your mercy is great.**

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

☩ **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

### THE OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

℣ Let us pray. Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☩ **Amen.**

### DIALOGUE

℣ The Lord be with you.

☩ **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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of  
sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:*

## **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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

The elements were given as you entered.

**P** The body of Christ given for you.

**C** Amen.

**P** The blood of Christ shed for you.

**C** Amen.

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

**C** Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**P** Let us pray. God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

### BLESSING

**P** You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you **✝** that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**C** Amen.

## DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Share the good news.

☞ **Thanks be to God. We will!**

## POSTLUDE

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