**fifth sunday in lent- april 3, 2022**

**zion lutheran church, philipsburg**

**announcments**

Welcome to worship on this fifth Sunday of Lent. March sort out went out like a lion, with all the wind we had. Warmer weather is on the horizon.

I had a wonderful experience at my first Bishop’s Retreat. It was nurturing and renewing both emotionally and spiritually.

If you are interested in joining the Accessibility Comm, please speak to Don Hammer. The group will be meeting soon to discuss the lift project.

Do you like to sing? A choir will be formed for Easter Sunday.

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us,

and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

**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.**

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. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (THE SOLID ROCK) (ELW 596)**

1 My hope is built on nothing less

than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

no merit of my own I claim,

but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;

all other ground is sinking sand,

all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,

I rest on his unchanging grace;

in ev'ry high and stormy gale

my anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood

sustain me in the raging flood;

when all supports are washed away,

he then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,

oh, may I then in him be found,

clothed in his righteousness alone,

redeemed to stand before the throne! Refrain

**GREETING (ELW p. 98)**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 102)**

Let us pray.

Creator God, 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21**

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 126**

1When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.  
 2**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**  
  **Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”**  
 3The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.  
 4**Restore our fortunes, O Lord,** **like the watercourses of the Negeb.**  
 5Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.  
 6**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,**  
  **will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] 4bIf 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: John 12:1-8**

The holy gospel according to John.

**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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 103)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ***Jesus, the Very Thought of You* (ELW 754)**

1 Jesus, the very thought of you

fills us with sweet delight;

but sweeter far your face to view

and rest within your light.

2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind recall

a sweeter sound than your blest name,

O Savior of us all!

3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,

O joy of all the meek,

how kind you are to those who fall!

How good to those who seek!

4 O Jesus, be our joy today;

help us to prize your love;

grant us at last to hear you say:

"Come, share my home above."

**blessing of school supplies**

Holy God, we ask your blessing on these backpacks, lunch bags, and school supplies. May these supplies bring a sense of welcome, joy, and stability to the lives of the Ukraine children and teenagers who will receive them. Let the backpacks be filled with new friendships, and new memories, and may the pencils, crayons, and markers be used to show and share creative expressions of your love and grace. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Our sung response for the prayers of Intercession is hymn number 751, O Lord Hear My Prayer.

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms and traditions that no longer serve the gospel. Bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage to let go of the fear of change. We sing,

Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course. We sing,

Do a new thing in our world. Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all. Make ways for peace, justice, and collaboration among the nations. We remember all countries fighting unjust wars and violence, *especially* Ukraine, Yemen, Congo, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Niger, and South Sudan. Help us to welcome refugees with open hearts and minds. We sing,

Do a new thing for those who suffer. Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle with money. Comfort those who grieve and restore those who are sick with illness or injury *especially*, Sarah, Tilly, Ruth, Ted, Summer, Chris, Marsha, Anne, Elaine, Glenda, Phyllis, our members in Long Term Care; Esther, Barbara, Robert and Evelyn, all waiting for surgery and diagnosis, and those we name either out loud or in the silence in our hearts. We sing,

Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued. Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism. Continue the conversation between our Indigenous brothers and sisters and the Catholic Church. Bring healing and reconciliation to all who have been hurt by the abuse and tragedy of residential schools. We sing,

Do a new thing in our death. Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection as we give thanks for all the saints who have attained the prize of their heavenly call. We sing,

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 106)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERTORY- *Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow (ELW 884)***

**OFFERING PRAYER**

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. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

 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.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 108)**

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. With all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE IV – p. 111**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)**

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

**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**

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

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 112)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION HYMN- *Take My Life That I May Be- 685***

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 114)**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

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. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* (ELW 335)**

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.  
Refrain  
In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.  
  
2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. Refrain  
  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day  
with its shadow o'er me. Refrain  
  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river. Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**Thanks be to God.**

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