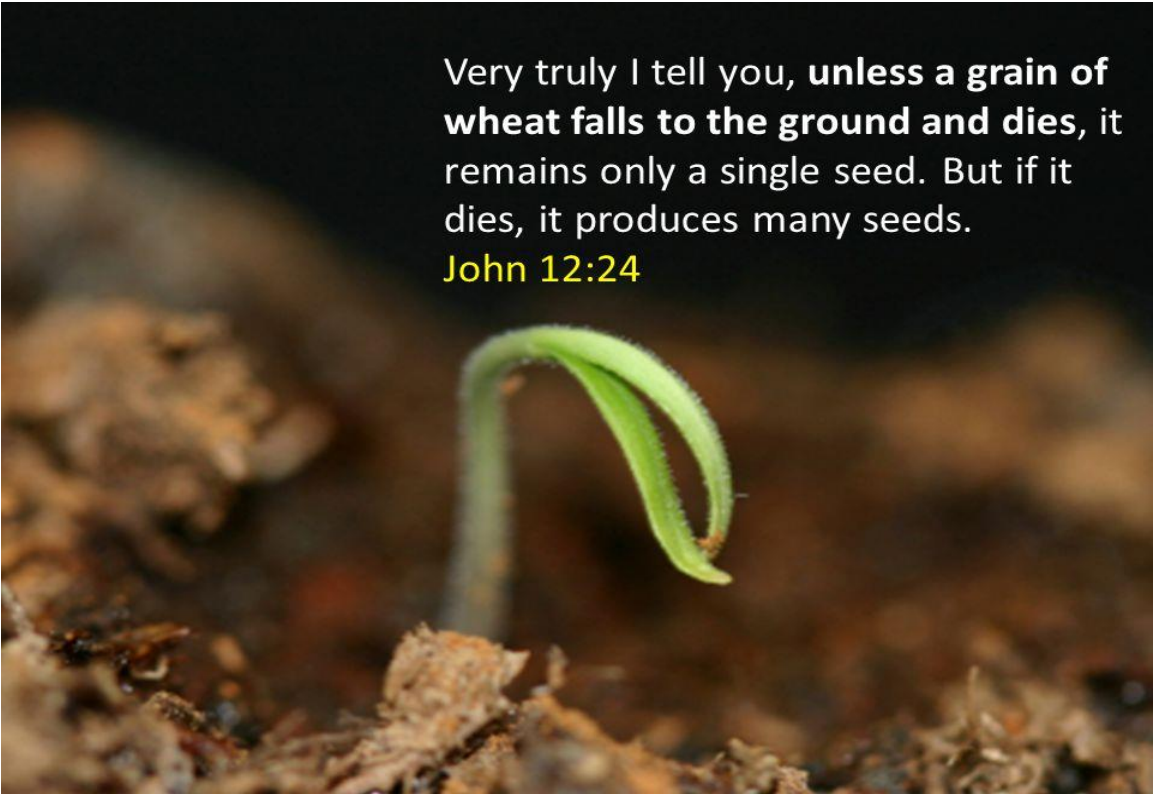


Triune Lutheran Church

Very truly I tell you, **unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies**, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 12:24

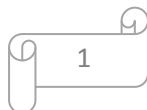


Fifth Sunday in Lent



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united in our Lord, Jesus
Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are primarily chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God of heaven and earth,
you come in close and make us yours.
Equip us by you as the Holy Spirit to confess our sin,
embrace your forgiveness,
and seek the way you set before us in your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

You are invited to kneel or remain standing. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Merciful God, **forgive us.**

Our will is entangled to sin, and we cannot break free.

**We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.
We were silent when we should have said something.**

We acted when we knew better.

**We were still when we know we should have moved.
For the wrong we have done,
for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

People of God, look to the † Son,
given to heal you and set you free
because God loved the world so much.
Take hold of life—eternal life!

Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

ELW 324

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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

Psalm 119:9-16

⁹How shall the young keep | their way clean?

By keeping | to your word.

¹⁰**With my whole | heart I seek you;**

let me not stray from | your commandments.

¹¹I treasure your promise | in my heart,

that I may not | sin against you.

¹²**Blessed are | you, O Lord;**

instruct me | in your statutes.

¹³With my lips | I recite

all the judgments | of your mouth.

¹⁴**I take greater delight in the way of | your decrees**

than in all man- | ner of riches.

¹⁵I will meditate on | your commandments

and give attention | to your ways.

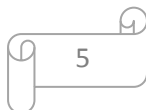
¹⁶**My delight is | in your statutes;**

I will not for- | get your word.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

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

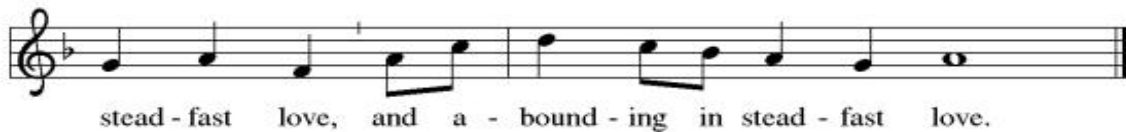


“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
⁶as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

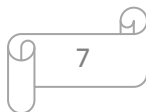
The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord!

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever 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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ!



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Seed That in Earth is Dying”

ELW 330

*** APOSTLES’ CREED**

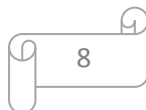
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

We pray for the whole church. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and service. We pray for evangelists, pastors, prophets, teachers, and all servants of the church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the entire world: for seeds planted in hope of an abundant harvest. For fertile soils and sufficient rains. For shepherds and ranchers, farmworkers and seafood harvesters. For flowers and berries. For orchards, vineyards, and citrus groves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the nations: for countries embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. Grant wisdom to the world's decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the well-being of all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in any need, including those serving in the armed forces and their families. For all who suffer in any way. For those who are lonely or isolated. For those seeking employment. For those who approach the hour of their death, and all who are ill, especially Hazel Schwab, Trudy

Weidman, Gary Weiss, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Ed Uhlir, Jenny Bennett, Richard Jakubcin, Bertha Nickler, and all those we name in our heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our family of Triune. Deepen us in faith. Fill us with hope, and draw us all into your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially those who have been witnesses and examples to us. Bring us with them to the promise of resurrection and life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN**

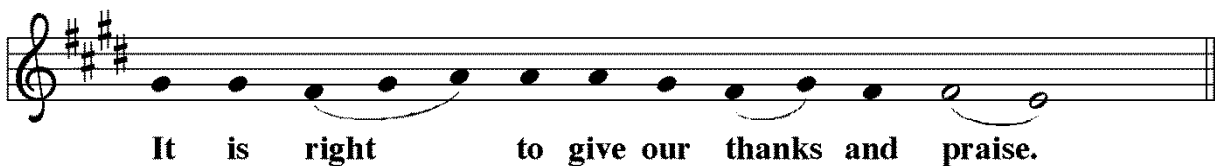
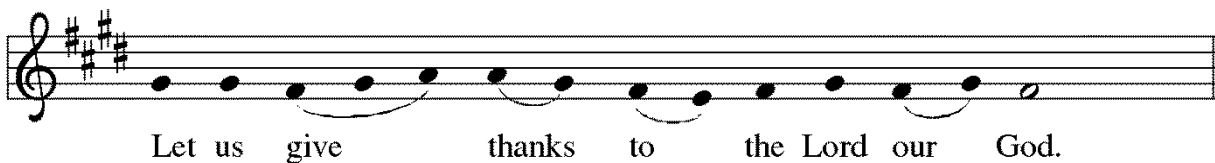
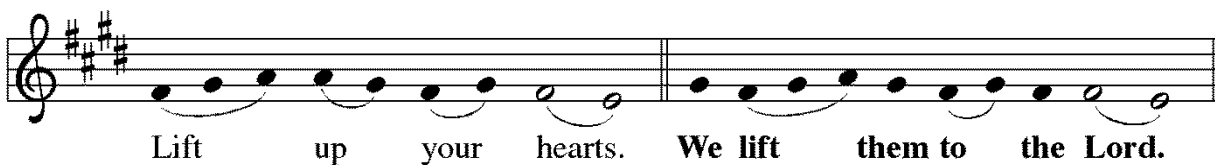
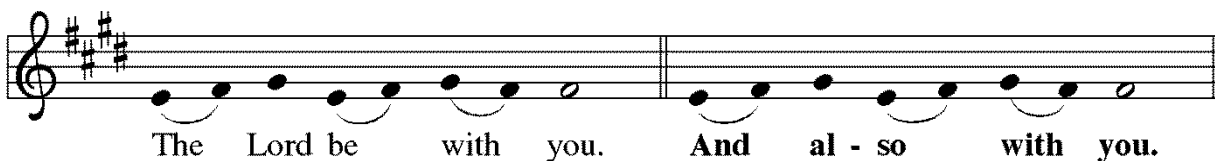
“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 186

*OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God,
receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving
and the offering of our lives,
that following in the way of the cross,
we may know the joy of the resurrection;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen!

* GREAT THANKSGIVING



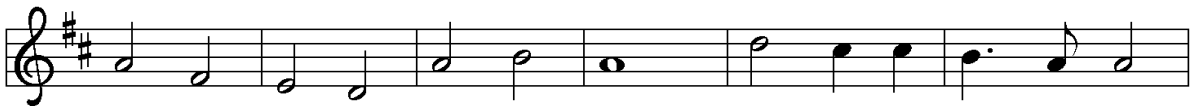
*PREFACE

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.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,
our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out yourself as the Holy Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Return to God with all your heart.
Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.
Thanks be to God!

*COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

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 Christ our Lord.

Amen!

***BLESSING**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you † peace.

Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW 338

***DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by
permission under Aug. Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000689. NRSV
Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council
of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Pastor: ***Brad Ross***
Assisting Minister: ***Heidi Bailey***
Organist: ***Edith Schatt***
Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

The Painful Path

A Unitarian friend of mine continually reminds me that there is danger in thinking of Jesus as divine. He says that if we think that Jesus was divine, we may begin to excuse ourselves from the call to follow him to the cross. We think, “Well, Jesus was God, so he could do those things and it didn’t really hurt him. At least it didn’t hurt him the way it would hurt me. So really, I’ll worship him, but following him is a bit too dangerous.”

Unless we take the human pain and suffering of Jesus seriously, we may fail to take seriously our own call to face pain and suffering for the sake of the kingdom of God. In our Gospel lesson, Jesus reminds us that our calling as Christians is to follow him and that following him includes following him to the cross, not as spectators but as participants in suffering for the sake of the world.

Hebrews Chapter 5 gives us an intensely human portrait of Jesus, one filled with mental anguish, the dread of anticipated suffering, pleading for mercy and, finally, resignation to his fate. Verse 7 begins, “In the days of his flesh.” The Greek word here is “sarx.” It means meat—bones and blood and muscle. It is a declaration of Jesus’ very real humanity. The text continues, “Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears.” Many rabbis taught that there were three levels of prayer: 1) “prayers”—verbal or silent, thought out and controlled, 2) “loud cries”—shouting at God in anger or anguish, and 3) “tears”—pure emotion and pain. This text portrays Jesus as engaging in all three but most especially in loud cries and tears—pouring out his fear and pain to God. One who feels no pain and no fear, one who is not “human,” does not weep and cry before God.

The verse concludes, “to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard.” Jesus knew that the path he was on led to death, to the cross. Jesus also knew that God was “the one who was able” to save him from this end. And Jesus was not afraid to let his fears and feelings be known, to God and to others. This verse says that, when Jesus cried out to be saved from death, he was heard—and yet he died. Died in agony upon the cross. What kind of hearing is that?

When I was about 12 or 13, I was in the Boy Scouts. One night at Scouts we were running a race and I tripped. I fell face down in the dirt road. I lodged a piece of gravel under the skin on my forehead. The rural health clinic was a mile or so down the road from our meeting place. The doctor who ran the clinic and my father were both assistant scoutmasters and they took me to the clinic. He was a good doctor, but his bedside manner was a bit on the brusque side. As I shivered on that cold, hard, metal table, he came at me with a huge needle to numb my forehead. I was deathly afraid of needles. I looked over at my father and began to cry out, “Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, please Daddy! Don’t let him hurt me, please Daddy! Daddy, Daddy, Daddy!”

The doctor threw a leg over me to hold me down, put his left arm down on my chest and proceeded to inject the needle just above my right eye. All the while I continued to cry and beg and plead for Daddy to make him stop. Just as the needle entered I saw Daddy's rough, farmer hands with the knuckles turning white as he clutched my jacket. I looked up and saw a tear in the corner of his eye. It was the only time I ever, ever saw him cry. "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy!" I was heard. Oh yes, I was heard. And I was denied.

Hebrews 5:8 – "Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

Throughout this Lent, we have been looking at Jesus' struggle with the call to the cross. The temptations in the wilderness were temptations to find other ways to be the Messiah, the Son of God. The reason he yelled "Get behind me, Satan!" at Peter was that Peter was luring him away from the cross. Jesus' call to follow has always involved a call to suffering, death and a cross. The writer of Hebrews is meditating on a very human Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying, "if it be your will let this cup pass." Jesus was heard; he was denied. As our Gospel from John puts it, "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.**" In the end, Jesus obeyed, and, as Hebrews says, "he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

Here is a great mystery of the faith. Wherever we are, God in Christ has been—fully, completely, totally. Think about the most scared, lonely and troubled you have ever been. Jesus has been there. Think about the moments when you have felt ignored and abandoned by God. Jesus has been there. Think about all the times when you just did not know if you could make it. Jesus has been there.

The promise of the gospel is not "If you are a Christian, life will be easy." The gospel is not about ways to make your life, your marriage, your career, your children or anything else work out in a way pleasing to yourself. The gospel is the call to follow Jesus to the cross and beyond. To follow Jesus in serving the poor and needy. To follow Jesus in reaching out to the despised and rejected. To follow Jesus in standing up for those who are oppressed and ill-served by the world. To follow Jesus in fighting against illness and evil wherever they may be found.

And sometimes following Jesus to the cross means we will suffer for our commitments, that we too will be rejected and scorned as much as those with whom we take our stand. Christ calls us to follow him. It is not an easy way. It is not a painless path. It is not likely to be smooth sailing. It is the Way of the Cross. And the sign and promise of the cross is that where God calls us to go, Jesus has already been, and as we go, Jesus is going with us. Amen and amen.

- The Rev. Delmer Chilton