

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Where Are You Heading?
March 16 & 17, 2013

AS WE GATHER

The cornerstone of a building is its most important stone. It's the stone by which the rest of the structure is aligned and on which the entire edifice depends. Without a reliable cornerstone, there is disaster. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus harkens back to Psalm 118:22, saying of Himself, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." What is your cornerstone? What is it that determines how your life and priorities are aligned? If it is anything other than Christ Jesus, then your life risks being askew. As we gather today, seek to have as your cornerstone the one who comes to us in Word and Sacrament, the Rock of our Salvation, Jesus our Savior. "Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build; With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above." *LSB 912:1*

+ PREPARATION +

WELCOME

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
Hebrews 10:25

OPENING HYMN #912 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place of present grace And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In Joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Those who sow in tears

People: shall reap with shouts of joy!

Pastor: He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

People: shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him. *Psalm 126:5-6*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Since we are gathered here during this season of Lent to hear God's Word, to call on Him in prayer and praise, and to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus in the fellowship of the altar, let us first confess that, like the wicked tenants in today's Gospel lesson, we, too, have often refused to listen to God's Word or to those who deliver it. We have treated Jesus, who God the Father sent into the world, with disrespect. Therefore, in repentance, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" *Isaiah 43:18-19* Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lord God, our Redeemer, you delivered your people Israel from bondage and captivity. Grant that we may also look to you in faith as our deliverer from sin, death, and the devil, that we, your people, may honor and proclaim Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 43:16-21 (*Behold, I am doing a new thing. . .*) This is what the LORD says—he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

EPISTLE Philippians 3:4b-14 (*The righteousness of God that depends on faith . . .*) If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

8:00 ANTHEM *“The Gift of Love”* *Jr. High Choir*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 20:9-20 (*The Parable of the Wicked Tenants*) He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out. “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’ “But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. “What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When the people heard this, they said, “May this never be!” Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.” The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had

spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people. Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be honest. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor.
(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #425 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His dead, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

SERMON *“Pressing On Toward the Goal”* *Philippians 3:4b-14*

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: Join our prayers and praises . . . forever and ever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #702 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;

O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!

As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee

Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;

Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,

Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,

Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;

O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

HYMN #543 "What Wondrous Love Is This, O My Soul"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

Continued

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down!

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

HYMN #420 "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,

Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:

Through Thy suf-f'rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;

Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!

Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smitting only That my wounds might all be whole;

Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;

Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn

And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee. All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,

That as Thine Thou mightest own me And with heav'n-ly glory crown me.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Continued

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee; Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have released us from our captivity to sin through the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Having received forgiveness, continue to form us as your people by the power of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord, your deliverer from sin, bless you and keep you. The Lord, your deliverer from death, make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord, your deliverer from the devil, look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #733 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Continued

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

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Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Jr. High Choir Director

Music Coordinator

Organist

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Jane Adams, Bob Reynolds, Russell Hurst

MacKenzie Ricard, Kelly Sarff, Jacob Sentkowski

Shannon Wiegert

Kim Woller

Roger Gottschalk

Reverence During Worship: We gather to worship the almighty God, who alone is worthy of all honor and praise. He gave us life. He gives us every blessing in life. He gave His only Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. It is fitting that we show proper reverence and respect during worship. Please turn off all cell phones during worship, unless you are an emergency responder (then put it on vibrate). Please do not allow children to play with technological devices. Technology is rapidly consuming our waking hours and we need "sabbath rest" even from the use of these kinds of things. It's great to talk and socialize, but once the pre-service music starts it is time to focus on God. As one youth said at our lock-in during devotional time: "It's Jesus time!" Let us teach and model proper reverence and respect in worship.

National Youth Gathering Fundraising Update

The Lord is blessing our efforts to raise funds for 13 youth and 4 adults to attend the National Youth Gathering. The youth raised over \$4,000 through the bowl-a-thon and with \$3,000 matching funds, raised over \$7,000 total. Thanks to the Rangerettes, we received over \$200 from the "Jail" during the St. Paul's basketball tournament. Shelly Mueller helped us along the way as many youth assisted with our Lenten meal on March 6, which raised over \$350. With a couple other general donations, the youth have raised just over \$10,000 on the way to their goal of \$16,000. Watch the "Live Love(d)" board with the cross in the narthex for updates on fundraising. As the cross fills up with "Live Love(d)" stickers, we are moving toward our goal. When the cross is full, we will have reached our goal. Each one of those stickers represents God's love of these youth through His people gathered at St. Paul's. God bless us, everyone!

Biggest Loser Update

The first update weigh-in has taken place for our "Biggest Loser" competition. Four women are seeking to lose a total of 60 pounds by the middle of May; Seven men are trying to lose a total of 135 pounds by the same time. After four weeks, the women have lost a total of 6 pounds and are 10% of the way to their goal. Barb Heimsoth leads the group with 6 pounds of weight lost! Way to go, Barb. The men have lost a total of 35 pounds, which makes them just over 25% of the way to their goal. Pastor Bender leads the men, with a total of 11 pounds lost to date. You can pledge any of the individuals participating: JoLynn Bender, Tammy Evers, Barb Heimsoth, Danielle Jackson, Pastor Bender, Jack Burkee, Jim Dittman, Duane Graf, Jeff Hass, Pastor Stanton, and Bob Woller. You can also pledge one of the teams or the whole team. The woman's team already has a pledge of 40 cents per pound. The men's team has no pledgers as a team, yet. The whole team has a pledge of 10 cents per pound. All proceeds will go to our Youth Ministry in support of attending the National Youth Gathering. Give a pledge, support the staff by helping them "lose," and the youth win!

St. Paul's Servants Dinner and Auction

On Saturday, April 6, the Youth Committee and the Groundwork Guatemala mission team will be sponsoring a dinner and auction. The main course will be lasagna and the desserts will be made by the families of our youth attending the Gathering in San Antonio. The committee is busy procuring items to be auctioned off; we'll auction off some "slaves" as well! Don't be offended . . . there is a Christian understanding of that term which will be explained that evening. There will be both a silent auction and a live auction for the more valuable items and, of course, our young slaves. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (3-12) and under 3 are free. Proceeds will be split proportionately between our Youth and the Mission team. Tickets will be on sale at the "Scrip" table after each service through Easter Sunday. Come out and have a great time with your family . . . and support our St. Paul's servants as well.