

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Reason to Rejoice

April 6 & 7, 2019

AS WE GATHER

From the outside looking in, our walking together through the forty days of Lent does not seem nearly as exciting as the cheerfulness of Christmas or the elation of Easter, which we will experience two short weeks from today. Yet there is much joy to be found! There's a great reason to rejoice! God blesses us with time together today to fix our eyes on Jesus and receive Him who was rejected for our redemption, forsaken for our forgiveness, and sacrificed for our salvation. Following the example of Paul, we cast everything else aside and find joy—true, lasting, eternal joy—in “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:8). Jesus longs for us to receive Him as He reveals Himself by His Word and Spirit, learning to know Him for who He truly is and what He has come to give. Christ alone is our joy—at Christmas, at Easter, during the season of Lent, and every day we are given! “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4).

WELCOME

“Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him.

As surely as the sun rises, he will appear;

he will come to us like the winter rains,

like the spring rains that water the earth.” Hosea 6:3, NIV

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #909 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever And our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all Your loving-kindness, Hear Your people as they pray;
And Your fullest benediction Shed within these walls today.

Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful All the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from You, forever With the blessed to retain;
And here after in Your glory Evermore with You to reign.

Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run!

(Rise)

INVOCATION, CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

KYRIE

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Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, by your great goodness mercifully look upon your people that we may find our joy in you alone and evermore praise you in body and soul; 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 READING *Isaiah 43:16–21* (The Lord gives refreshment in the wilderness to His chosen people.) Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: “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? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts 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, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 3:4b–14* (Everything is counted as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus.) If anyone else thinks he has reason for 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; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to

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zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order 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 comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

10:30 ANTHEM

“Up Calvary’s Hill”

(Rise)

LENTEN VERSE ♪

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Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 20:9–20* (The rejected Son of God is our cornerstone.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twentieth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of

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the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #430 “My Song Is Love Unknown”

My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and non The longed for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!
Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease And ‘gainst Him rise.
They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life They slay.
Yet cheerful He To suff’ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.
In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav’n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

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Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

SERMON “The Surpassing Greatness of Knowing Jesus” Philippians 3:4b-14

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Pastor: Christ is our cornerstone, O Lord, and the rock upon which all our hopes rest. Bring to completion all that you have begun in us, and grant to us all things needful and profitable for our salvation.

People: By your Spirit, move us to acknowledge you in all things, press on to know Christ more fully, and confess that all things are a loss compared to the greatness of knowing Jesus.

Pastor: Help us, O Lord, to stand firm against all enemies and strive for the goal, the upward call in Christ, our Savior. We rejoice that we are not alone but surrounded by a great host of saints and fellow citizens of heaven, here and throughout the world.

People: Bless your people with unity in doctrine and faith, help us work as partners in Christ for the advancement of His kingdom, and grant us always to find in Him our Refuge and Strength.

Pastor: Bless your Church, O Lord, and bless those who serve us in your name. Bless our synod president, our pastors, and our Together in Mission partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family and Rachel Meyer.

People: Raise up godly men and women as servants of your kingdom, and lead us to honor the preaching of your Word and to submit to your discipline for our benefit and blessing.

Pastor: Guard us, O Lord, against all those who cause strife, whose acts of violence and terror threaten people everywhere, and who seek to destroy order and peace. Protect your people.

People: Bless and protect also the service men and women who defend us at home and abroad and all police, firefighters and emergency personnel who work on our behalf.

Pastor: Father in heaven, make our homes places of blessing and love, O Lord, that husbands and wives may honor the promises of their marriage and faithfully care for the children you have given them. Grant us to rejoice in your gift of life, even as we join with the Rauter family as they celebrate LeAnn's birthday.

People: Help us to honor your gift of life from its natural beginning as you knit together little ones and bless the weak, frail, and dying to endure in life to its natural end.

Pastor: Where people suffer in body or spirit, bring healing and peace, O Lord. Sustain the weary with your Word, and grant the afflicted healing according to your will. We lift before you the names of those requesting our prayers including Justin, Sarah, Felicia, Marion, Katie, Marilyn, Susan, Henry, LuEva, Marge, Dolores, Dick, Herb, Cindy, Arlene, Shirley, Russ, Gladys, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Sarah and those named in our hearts... (brief silence). Fill them with hope and peace in Christ.

People: Be with them in their hour of need and comfort them, that they may not be overcome by their struggles, their grief or their pain.

Pastor: Teach us to love you above all things, O Lord, lest we gain possessions and lose our salvation. Lead us to use wisely and for your will and purpose all the things of this life.

People: Accept with our gratitude the tithes and offerings we bring, tokens of our faith, gifts of gratitude, and symbols of our trust in you to give us all that we need.

Pastor: Prepare our hearts, O Lord, to receive for our benefit the blessed food of Christ's body and blood in this Holy Sacrament.

People: Unite us in faith, bless our lights to shine brightly, and equip us to live together in love as you have loved us and forgiven all our sins.

Pastor: Bless and comfort those who are grieving in these days, especially Mary De Bona and the rest of the family and friends of Larry.

People: Lift them up in your loving arms, fill them with hope in Christ, and move us to love and support them in their time of need.

Pastor: Where we are in error, O Lord, reform and refashion our hearts and lives. Where our love is lacking, renew us. Where our faith is faltering, give us strength. Where we are distracted, give us a clear focus on Christ.

People: Keep us in Christ to the day of the resurrection of all flesh, when we shall be reunited with those who have gone before and know fully the glory of life with you forever.

Pastor: All these things we pray, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, with whom you reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

People: Amen.

(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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

OFFERTORY ♪

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What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

PREFACE

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Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

SANCTUS & PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

**People: ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on those whom you created and sent your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg you, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us your body and blood to eat and drink, you lead us to remember and confess your holy cross and passion. Your blessed death, your rest in the tomb, your resurrection from the dead, your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI ♪

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.

(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 #538 "Praise Be to Christ"

Praise be to Christ in whom we see The image of the Father shown,
The firstborn Son revealed and known, The truth and grace of deity;
Through whom creation came to birth, Whose fingers set the stars in place
The unseen pow'rs, and this small earth,
The furthest bounds of time and space.

Praise be to Him whose sov'reign sway And will upholds creation's plan;
Who is, before all worlds began And when our world has passed away:
Lord of the Church, its life and head,
Redemption's price and source and theme,
Alive, the firstborn from the dead, To reign as all in all supreme.

Praise be to Him who, Lord Most High, The fullness of the God-head shares;
And yet our human nature bears, Who came as man to bleed and die.
And from His cross there flows our peace Who chose for us the path He trod,
That so might sins and sorrows cease And all be reconciled to God.

HYMN #427 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hope deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

HYMN #543 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

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!

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 o 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.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

Thank the Lord ♪

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Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

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Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of
your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith
toward you and in fervent love toward one another; 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 bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on
you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and +
give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING 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.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Noah Kegley
Lectors	Jodi Drew, Carri Halstead
Acolytes	Erika Graf, Aubrey Kadolph, Olivia Kukor
Organist & 1 st Grade Director	Michelle Prince

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