

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT: March 21, 2021

RINGING OF THE BELL

SILENCE: Pray for open hearts & minds to Christ and his gifts of grace in Word & Sacrament.

OPENING SONG #465 “As the Grains of Wheat”

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We begin with the words that were spoken and the sign that was marked upon us when we were washed with God’s love in our baptism. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us call to mind the need we all have for God’s mercy.

Lord Jesus, you lay down your life for each of us. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, show us the heart of God’s mercy. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive and remember our sins no more. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

This is the good news. God is mercy and in the name of Jesus our sins are forgiven. Amen.

FORGIVENESS HYMN #460 “Now the Silence’

GATHERING

GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray (pause). 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 the 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.

WORD

THE READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

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. 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. 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. 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.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN #328 v. 1 “Restore In Us, O God”

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ”

GOSPEL HYMN #328 v. 2 “Restore In Us, O God”

HOLY GOSPEL John 12:27-33

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, “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. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Pour out your Spirit upon your church so that your people may speak words of life to a weary world. Lord, in your mercy:

Bring newness of life to all of creation: to animals, plants, lands, and sea, that they may be refreshed. Lord, in your mercy:

Unbind all nations, peoples, and tribes from violence and war. Breathe the breath of new life and reconciliation where there is conflict. Lord, in your mercy:

We give you thanks for all the saints who have been lifted up to live with you in eternal light and who continue to pray for us and inspire us. Lord, in your mercy:

Sick . . .

Bishops . . .

God, you love us and hear our prayers. We thank you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG FOR THE GIFTS #659 "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

Blessed are you, Lord God, of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS

Let us pray (pause). Holy and generous host, you set a table where all are welcome to eat together as friends. May we witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your love; through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

MEAL

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. You sent us your Son Jesus, who gave his life for us and who came to save us. He healed sick people; he cared for those who were poor and wept with those who were sad. He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive each other. He fed the hungry and gave water to the thirsty. He took children in his arms and blessed them. God, we thank you that you bring us together for this meal of Christ's love.

On the night before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, he took bread and gave you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.

When supper was ended Jesus took the cup. Again Father he gave you thanks and praise. Gave the cup to his disciples and said, take this all of you and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, it will be shed for you and for all people that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

With this bread and cup we remember the great love of Jesus that forgives all sins and opens the door to eternal life, and so, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life we name before those whose anniversary of death we commemorate this week: David Colt, Glenn Freese, Leona McAlister. We rejoice in the life they now share with you and all the saints. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ in the world. Breathe new life into us Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Through him, with him, in him; in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

OUR FATHER & SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Great High Priest, you take away the sins of the world. **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Bread of Life, you take away the sins of the world. **Grant us your peace. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray (pause). We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of Jesus, which sustains us as we travel through the ups and downs of life. As Jesus loves us in this holy meal so send us to love our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR PARISH FAMILIES

Loving God, bless our families and fill our homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Especially send your blessing upon Greg & Lindsey Wenner & their family, Bob Wenner & his family, Craig & Christine Wiese & their family. Protect them, guide them, and deepen their love for you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

O Saving Lord Jesus, hear our pleas as we come before you to pray for deliverance and protection from the Coronavirus. Help those working to deliver and administer the vaccine. We commend ourselves, our community, our country, and our world into your hands. Lord, we love you and adore you. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Jesus, go forth to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE