

## Lent 5, 2021, Order of Worship (March 21, 2021)

**Greeting** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Notes on today's readings: God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world (*Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, Augsburg Fortress, p. 123).

**Call to Worship, Psalm 51:1-12** (a familiar psalm, especially during Lent; attributed to King David after he committed adultery with Bathsheba) ***Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop (a plant used for cleansing from various ailments), and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.***

**Confession and Forgiveness for Lent** (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, Augsburg Fortress, p. 100)

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow, in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails; the promise rests on grace. By the saving love of Jesus Christ, and by the eternal mercy and power of God, your sins are forgiven. God remembers them no more! Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** *My Song Is Love Unknown* (public domain)

LBW 94, HP 1438

**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,  
My Lord should take frail flesh and die.**

**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,  
And for his death they thirst and cry.**

**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!  
I all my days could gladly spend!**

### **The Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

**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.**

**A reading from Jeremiah, the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter (31:31-34)** The Israelites in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts (*Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, Augsburg Fortress, p. 123).

***“The time is coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. Word of God, word of life.***

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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.**

**The gospel according to John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter (12:20-33), sermon (page 6)**

**Sermon Hymn    *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (public domain)    LBW 104, ELW 324, HP 554**

***In the cross of Christ I glory, towering 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, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.***

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

**Apostle's Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 (from *Sundays and Seasons*, 2020, p. 117)**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all who are in any kind of need.

Lord God, you wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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From tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder, you fill the earth with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide all people throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school. Give us your truth and wisdom, and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words and music to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Holy Communion**

**Words of Institution**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Receiving the Body and Blood**

**Communion Blessing**

### **Prayer after Communion**

God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, so that our lives may bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **Benediction:**

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.  
God bless you that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

**Sending Song** *Oh, that the Lord Would Guide* (public domain) LBW 480, ELW 772, HP XXXXX

*Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!*

*Order my footsteps by your Word and make my heart sincere;  
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.*

*Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;  
And should I e'er forget your way, restore your wandering sheep.*

*Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road;  
Nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.*

**Dismissal** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**