

ST. JOHANNES LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 HASSELL ST. CHARLESTON SC 29401



**Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 2021**

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

C: Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 31:31-34

P: A reading from Jeremiah.

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.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God**

PSALM 51:1-12 (in unison)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

SECOND LESSON Hebrews 5:5-10

P: A reading from Hebrews.

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

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL St. John 12:20-33

P: The holy gospel according to St. John the 12th chapter. **C: 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ**

SERMON

Pastor Rich Donoghue

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #330 “Seed That in Earth Is Dying”

- 1 Seed that in earth is dying
grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel
turn into golden wine.
God, through this mystery grant us
faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death.

2 We were baptized in Jesus,
into his death and grave,
to resurrection's promise:
praise and eternal life.
Heaven's own praises begin here
where you yourself are near us,
deep in our night and death.

3 Seed that in earth is dying
rise to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table,
give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you!
Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929
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APOSTLES' CREED

P: *Let us confess our faith in the words of the APOSTLES' CREED:*

C: **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

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

A brief silence.

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.

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens 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 **the friends and family of Norma Jean McDonald, the friends and family of Pooh Kanapaux, Julie Riel, Bob Oswald, Sean Holleran, Chuck Long, Judy Long, Emily Laird, Elliott Spann, Linda Mizzell, Gerry Naumann, Betty Addison, Victor Thompson, Sharon Masso, Monte Mims, Tammy Tanner, Marcy Floyd, Connie Morgan, Charles Long III, Anne Foster, Marie Mood, Barbara Lyerly, Mary Sweat, Elmore Marlow, Ted Bowers, Bill Cornwell, Marilyn Stehmeier, Bryan Steele, and those we name aloud and in our hearts.** 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, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you (*especially Thomas Cranmer*). 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 Lord.
Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN#: ELW 343 “My Song Is Love Unknown”

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| <p>1 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?</p> | <p>4 We cry out; we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
The prince of life to slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes
That he his foes from thence might free.</p> |
| <p>2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!</p> | <p>5 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.</p> |
| <p>3 Sometimes we strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry.</p> | <p>6 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!</p> |

DISMISSAL: P: Go in peace. Share the good news. **C: Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The council and re-opening team have recently met to discuss resuming in person worship services. The group has unanimously decided to re-open beginning with Palm Sunday and to include Holy Week services as well.

The following is the upcoming schedule:

Palm Sunday 3/28: Worship Service and Communion at 10am

Maundy Thursday 4/1: 6pm Service

Good Friday 4/2: 12 noon and 6pm Services

Easter Sunday 4/4: 8:00 am and 11 am Services

In order for us to provide meaningful and safe worship services, we would like to get an understanding of how many people will be attending each particular service. If you have not already done so, please contact the church office (phone or e-mail) and let us know what church services you will plan on attending.

If the COVID numbers begin to spike again, the council and re-opening team will meet to make a decision about what to do with in person worship services. We will of course, let you all know as soon as possible if this does happen. But, as of right now our target date for the first service is Palm Sunday and we are looking forward to having our sanctuary doors open once again. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give the church office a call at (843)722-8906.

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