

The Father's Will is Resolute for Sinners

April 6, 2025



Fifth Sunday
in Lent

Welcome, guests! We're delighted that you could join us. If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. This folder contains all the information about our services and the congregational responses are indicated by indented and bolded letters. Please also take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church's entrance; this is used by the pastor and elder only. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THE THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: How beautiful is our journey to the cross and tomb. We have seen our Savior's battle waged against temptation. We have found confidence in his resolution to carry out the Father's plan of salvation. We have turned to the Lord at his invitation to draw near with repentant hearts. And we have rejoiced in his loving and forgiving embrace. In these final hours before Holy Week, even as we rejoice in the great things God has done for his people throughout history.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT— CW, p.26

The "Service of Word and Sacrament" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.



OPENING HYMN:

#382

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

Please Stand for The Last Verse



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no oth -
his un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and storm -
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly prop
then in him be found, Clothed in his right - eous - ness



er claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus'
y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
a - lone, Fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All



oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Tune: MAGDALEN (88 88 88) John Stainer, 1840–1901.

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also, with you.

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

CONFESSION OF SINS

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise. (*Psalm 145:3*)

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
 but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
 O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 43: 16 – 24

The LORD had delivered his people from a life of slavery in Egypt and from impending death at the hand of the pursuing Egyptian army. But even this glorious rescue pales in comparison to

the salvation to be worked in the Messiah. This is the Lord's invitation to praise him for the eternal salvation he will bring.

This is what the Lord says, who makes a road through the sea and a path through mighty waters, who brings out the chariot and the horses, the army and the strong warrior. They will all lie down together. They will not get up. They are extinguished. Like a wick they go out.

Do not remember the former things. Do not keep thinking about ancient things. Watch, I am about to do a new thing. Now it will spring up. Don't you know about it? Indeed I will make a road in the wilderness. In the wasteland I will make rivers. The wild animals, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me, because I am providing water in the wilderness, rivers in a parched wasteland, water for my chosen people to drink. This people that I formed for myself will declare my praise.

But you have not called on me, O Jacob. Instead, you have become weary of me, O Israel. You have not brought me sheep as your whole burnt offerings. You did not glorify me with your sacrifices. I did not make you serve me with a grain offering. I did not make you weary with demands for incense. You did not purchase fragrant cane for me with silver or satisfy me with the fat from your sacrifices. Instead you have made me serve because of your sins. You have made me weary because of your guilt.

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 73

Refrain



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Psalm tone



Refrain

I am always with you, O LORD;*
you hold me by my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,*
and afterward you will take me into glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,*
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 3: 8 – 14

To Paul all that is earthly gain and glory is rubbish compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus. There is no room for the self-righteous in Christ's kingdom. We want to be found with an alien righteousness. Then we will know Christ's power, and because we have been called, gathered, and enlightened we put the past behind and strive for the eternal prize.

But even more than that, I consider everything to be a loss because of what is worth far more: knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord. For his sake, I have lost all things and consider them rubbish, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, which comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God by faith. I do this so that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, in the hope that in some way I may arrive at the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

*****Please Stand*****

GOSPEL

LUKE 20: 9 – 19

We find ourselves horrified by the actions of the evil tenants. In self-righteous anger we say with the Jews, "May this never be!" Jesus warns that the self-righteous Pharisees of the ages will be dashed to pieces against him, the Cornerstone. Even so, the owner of the vineyard again and again sends Word to the renters. His desire to reconnect with the wicked tenants is so great that he sends his own Son.

He began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, leased it to some tenant farmers, and went away on a journey for a long time. When it was the right time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenant farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed. The man went ahead and sent yet another servant, but they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#110

MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew his way And his sweet prais - es
 4 Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and
 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might
 stow, But such dis - dain! So few The longed - for
 sing, Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas
 spite? He made the lame to run; He gave the
 way. A mur - der - er they save; The Prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I That for my
 Christ would know! But oh, my friend, My friend in -
 to their King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their
 blind their sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at
 life they slay. Yet cheer - ful he To suff'r - ing



sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 breath, And for his death They thirst and cry.
 these Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst him rise.
 goes That he his foes From death might free.

6 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.

7 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!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-83, alt.
 Tune: LOVE UNKNOWN (66 66 4444) John N. Ireland, 1879-1962. © John Ireland Trust.
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SERMON TEXT:

LUKE 20: 9 – 18

SERMON THEME:

GOD'S WILL TO RECONNECT TO THE WICKED

****Please Stand****

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

****Please Be Seated****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR LENT

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love, we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

SPECIAL PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

SILENT PRAYERS

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#388

REDEEMED, RESTORED, FORGIVEN



1 Re - deemed, re - stored, for - giv - en Through Je - sus'
2 Once on the drear - y moun - tain We wan - dered
3 Dear Mas - ter, yours the glo - ry Of each re -
4 Now keep us, ho - ly Sav - ior, In your true



pre - cious blood, Heirs of his home in heav - en—
far and wide, Far from the cleans - ing foun - tain,
cov - ered soul. Ah, who can tell the sto - ry
love and fear, And grant us by your fa - vor



Oh, praise our par - d'ning God! Praise him in tune - ful
Far from the pierc - ed side. But Je - sus sought and
Of love that made us whole? Not ours, not ours the
The grace to per - se - vere Till, in your new cre -

mea - sures Who gave his Son to die; Praise him whose
 found us; Our man - y sins he bore. With cords of
 mer - it; To you a - lone the praise! Give us a
 a - tion, Our earth - ly trou - bles o'er, Heirs of your

sev'n - fold trea - sures En - rich and sanc - ti - fy.
 love he bound us To him for - ev - er - more.
 thank - ful spir - it To serve you all our days.
 free sal - va - tion, We praise you ev - er - more.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt.
 Tune: KUORTANE (76 76 D) Finnish folk tune, c. 19th century.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SANCTUS

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
 The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.
 You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

C: A - men.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

THANKSGIVING RESPONSE

#317

O LORD, WE PRAISE YOU

Vs. 1

1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you,
In thanksgiving bow before you.
Here with your body and your blood you nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish. O Lord, have mercy!
May your body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And your blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

CLOSING PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#457

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT



1 Fight the good fight With all your might;
2 Run the straight race Through God's good grace;
3 Cast care a - side, Lean on your guide;
4 Faint not nor fear; His arms are near.



Christ is your strength and Christ your light.
Lift up your eyes and seek his face.
His bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.
He chang - es not, and you are dear.



Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Life with its way be - fore us lies;
Lean, and the trust - ing soul shall prove
On - ly be - lieve, and you will see



Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
Christ is its life and Christ its love.
That Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-75, alt.
Tune: MENDON (448 88) *The Methodist Harmonist*, New York, 1821.

What We Believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendars: April calendars are available in the entryway; please take one today.

Easter Lilies: If you would like to contribute to our Easter celebration, we kindly ask that you bring a lily to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary. There is a sign-up sheet for flowers to gauge how many to expect. You may bring them during Holy Week, but we prefer that they be brought on Maundy Thursday to maintain the solemnity of Good Friday. We would appreciate it if the flowers could be delivered by Saturday of Easter weekend after 4 p.m. when the church will be prepared.

Holy Week: We will celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry on April 13, Palm Sunday. On Maundy Thursday, Pastor Emmons will be available for private confessions at the church; please make an appointment. The evening services will start at 5:30 pm. On Thursday, we will exit after the stripping of the altar, followed by a silent return on Good Friday for the service of darkness. Please consider the solemn nature of these two services—the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and his giving up his spirit on Friday—so we will exit in silence on both days.

Lent Services: Our Lenten season centers around “Reflections on Repentance.” We invite you to join us as you prepare your heart to reflect on the moment Jesus secured your salvation through His death and resurrection. Our Midweek Lent services take place on Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Bible Study: Join us for our Sunday morning Bible study as we delve into the book of Luke. Feel free to bring your questions; reading is always optional, and you're welcome to come and go as you please. We begin at 9 a.m.

Grace 2025 Mission Outreach: Please return your jars with your loose change, bills, or checks by Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Penny or Mavis.

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