

Mon Jeremiah 31:31-34 What a contrast! The old Sinai Covenant imposed restrictions and penalties on Israel, which moved many of those sinners to rebel rather than surrender (31-32). The new covenant is not burdensome simply because it's a covenant of grace, and repentant hearts are thrilled to find that God has given them a heavenly inheritance and seats at the table among brothers and sisters in His family circle (34). Welcome home.

Tues John 12:20-33 These converts from heathenism to Judaism (20) were looking for the promised Messiah (21). That touched Jesus to the heart (23) and nudged Him to compose the death/life parable—to illustrate the miracle of conversion and the productivity of new spiritual life (24-26). God's salvation enterprise depended on Jesus to not get detoured from His mission (27), and He received His Father's backing all the way (28-33). Hallelujah!

Wed Hebrews 5:7-9 Why did the Father submit Jesus to such intense pressure in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:41-44) that He begged for relief? Because salvation depended on Jesus bearing the burden of the old covenant and remaining the obedient Servant of sinners. The debt could not be erased until it got paid off—which Jesus did to *perfection*. That's why He deserves honor as the *author of our salvation*. Thank You, dear Jesus.

Thurs Psalm 143 Although David's prayer fits Jesus in some points, it differs in others. When David's soul was distressed (1-4), he tried to compensate by recalling his blessings (5-6), but he still couldn't handle life (7). Then he pleaded with God to take control of his life (8), to cancel the negatives (9) and fortify the positives (10). "Please, LORD God, I really need YOU (11-12)!"

Fri John 12:34-41 These Jerusalem Jews acted as if Jesus was letting them down by not providing more proof of His identity—even though He had given plenty of proof. The trouble lay with themselves, for they had already closed their hearts against enlightenment (35-36). They were committed to their own prideful agenda, as their forefathers had done; God was disgusted with all of them. Note: Closing one's heart against Jesus will suffocate the soul, and even the best pastor/missionary/preacher cannot revive it.

Sat Acts 22:22-29 Pride in one's ethnic heritage begets bigotry, and these bigots endangered Paul's life (22-23), but being a Roman citizen saved him from arbitrary and illegal punishment. You see, a person who possessed Roman citizenship dared not be punished unless he had been found guilty via a fair court trial. Note: being *examined* (29) meant he could be whipped until he confessed to something. Lord, have mercy on Your children in these days of sore distress and wickedness in high places! Stay tuned.

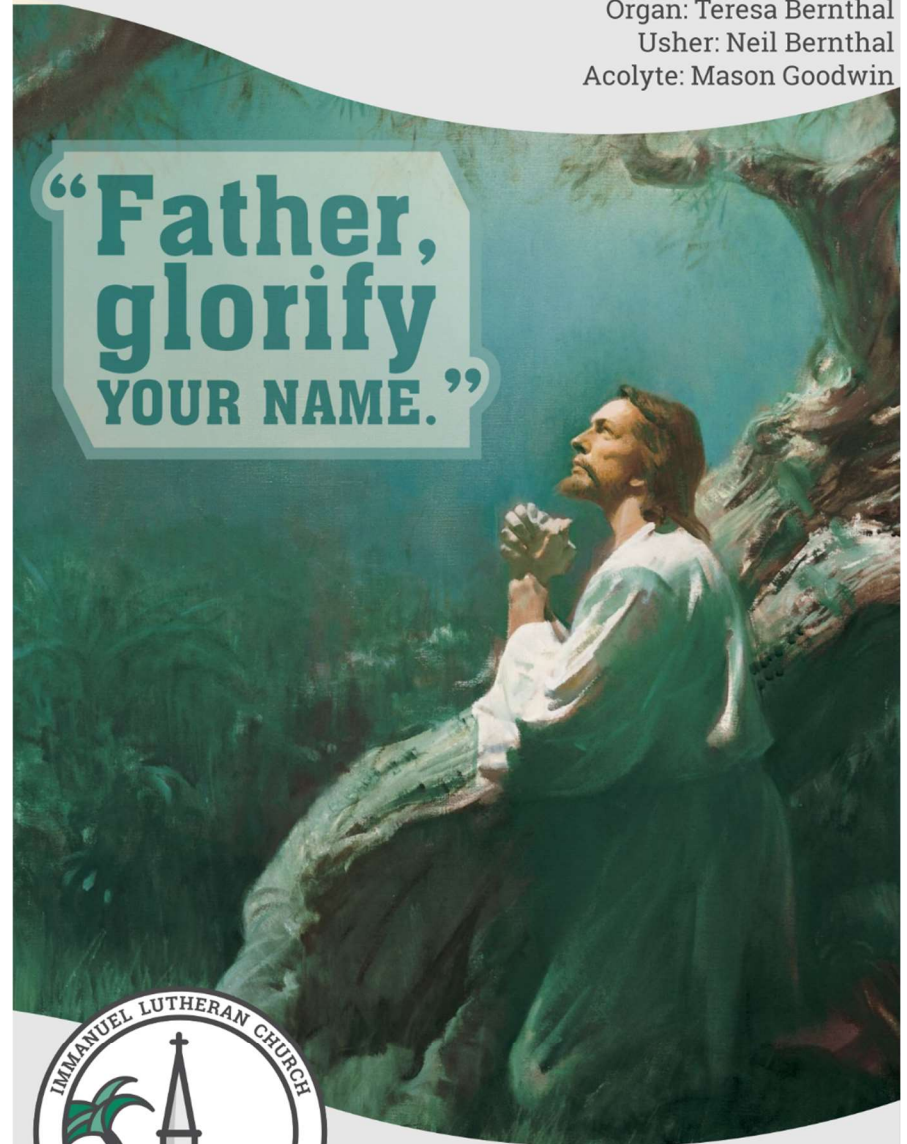
March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Neil Bernthal

Acolyte: Mason Goodwin



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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 143:1-6

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! ² Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. ³ For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. ⁴ Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. ⁵ I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands. ⁶ I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor

C Congregation

HYMN: TLH #390

“Drawn to the Cross”

1. Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast blest With healing gifts for souls distress, To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ Crucified, I come.
2. Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, Thy grace abused, my misspent years; Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ Crucified, I come.
3. Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain. For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ Crucified, I come.
4. And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be That angels well might envy me, Christ Crucified, I come.

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

C ♪ A - - - men.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C ♪ **Amen, amen, a – men.**

HYMN: LSB #430:1,2,7

“My Song is Love Unknown”

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?
2. He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none The longed for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!
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!

✠ Announcements ✠

Church Work Day is scheduled for this coming Saturday at 9:30 am. It’s been quite some time since we had a work day, so there is lots to accomplish! If you are able, please make time to come out this Saturday and help your fellow Christians maintain our church property! Thank you!

- ✠ **Mar. 21:** Trustees/Council
- ✠ **Mar. 21:** Masks-On Service 9am
- ✠ **Mar. 24:** Midweek Lent 6:30pm
- ✠ **Mar. 27:** Church Work Day 9:30a
- ✠ **Mar. 28:** Palm Sunday
- ✠ **Apr. 2:** Good Fri. Tenebrae 7pm
- ✠ **Apr. 4:** Easter Sunday
- ✠ **Apr. 18:** Voters Meeting

Shut-in/Encouragement List Patti Meno continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. Johanna Jaehnigen remains mostly housebound. Paulette Galstad is suffering through bad back pain and other health problems. Emily Kuehne suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain, among other ailments. Greg Tincher is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. JoAnne Weis is regaining her strength at home and feeling much better. Rudy Enriquez is home from the hospital and awaiting the beginning of treatment for his throat cancer. Bill Hartmann’s health is deteriorating quickly.

Last Week: WH – 37 Orlando – 13

Total Offering = \$1,928

General = \$1,778 | Property Improvement = \$50 | Building = \$50 | Tuition Grant = \$50

Cleaner (3/26): Bernthal | **Acolyte (3/28):** Grant Ream

SERMON – Hebrews 5:1-10 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ³ Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. ⁴ And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶ as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." ⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Jesus Christ is "Same, Same but Different"

- I. As the Old Testament Priests
- II. As Melchizedek
- III. As You and Me

OFFERTORY

C *♩* Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #156 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

1. Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.
2. But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.
3. My faith would lay her hand On that dear head of Thine
While like a penitent I stand And there confess my sin.
4. My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursed tree And knows her guilt was there.
5. Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.

C O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C *♩* A - - - men.

INTROIT *Ps. 116:1-4, 8; Psalm 43:1*

P Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!

C I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

P Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

C The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

P Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

C For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

GLORIA PATRI *Latin for "Glory be to the Father"*

C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

VERSE OF THE DAY *Mark 10:45*

P Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord"

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

C ♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

P Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore 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.

C ♪ A - - - men.

GOSPEL READING – John 12:20-33 Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. ²⁷ "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come

to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Jeremiah 31:31-34 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares 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. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

HYMN: TLH #179

"On My Heart Imprint Thine Image"

- 1. On my heart imprint Thine image, Blessed Jesus, King of Grace, That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Have no power Thee to efface. This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me, Is my life, my hope's Foundation, And my Glory and Salvation.**