

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THEME: Jesus shows us greatness in servanthood.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

A WORD ABOUT OUR WORSHIP TODAY

P: Cast me not away from your presence,
C: And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
C: And uphold me with a willing spirit.
P: O Lord, open my lips.
C: And my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51

CONFESSING TO GOD

C: Lord, we come before you in prayer today, asking for forgiveness. Jesus says, "Whoever desires to be great among you must become like a servant." We have missed the mark of serving others. Busy with our own desires, we have forgotten to pay attention to the needs, hurts and challenges of others. Lord, with your forgiveness also give us new eyes and renewed energy to serve. Open our hearts and eyes to what you would like us to do.

SONG OF CONFESSION "Red Book" 157 (twice) Open Our Eyes

Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord,
Help us to listen
Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus.

PRAYER

P: Jesus says today that “he came not to be served, but to serve.” He serves you in a special way today as he grants forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of the Jesus, I announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN “Green Book” 267 **Father, We Praise You**

Father, we praise you, now the night is over, active and
Watchful standing now before you; singing, we offer
Prayer and meditation; thus we adore you.

Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions; banish our
Weakness, health and wholeness sending; bring us to heaven
Where your saints united joy without ending.

All holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit, Trinity
Blessed, send us your salvation; yours is the glory,
Gleaming and resounding through all creation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray.....

C: Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEARING FROM GOD’S WORD

Old Testament Reading: [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

The Lord writes his new covenant on the hearts of his people

“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, 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. 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. 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.”

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10

Jesus is intercedes for us as our high priest

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. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

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”;
as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

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. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Without His Cross

By Joseph M. Martin

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:35-45

Jesus explains that proper discipleship entails servanthood

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG

The Love of the Lord

All that I counted as gain,
Now I consider as loss,
Empty and worthless to me,
In the light of the love of the Lord.
*What more could bring us hope
Than to know the pow'r of his life, of his life?
What more could bring us peace
Than to share in his suff'ring and death?
What more could be our final wish
Than to live in the love of the Lord?*

Riches and honors will fade,
Earthly delight disappear,
Wealth beyond measure I own
In the light of the love of the Lord.
*What more could bring us hope
Than to know the pow'r of his life, of his life?
What more could bring us peace
Than to share in his suff'ring and death?
What more could be our final wish
Than to live in the love of the Lord?*

Faith is the wealth I possess
Finding its source in my God:
Faith in the promise of Christ
Is my life and my love of the Lord.
*What more could bring us hope
Than to know the pow'r of his life, of his life?
What more could bring us peace
Than to share in his suff'ring and death?
What more could be our final wish
Than to live in the love of the Lord?*

SERMON

"Entitled to Serve"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**C: 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 Christian Church,
 The communion of saints,
 The forgiveness of sins,
 The resurrection of the body,
 And the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING (We give our offerings as a sign of our lives offered to God.)

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG "Red Book" 235 This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't you try to blow it out; I'm going to let it shine;
Don't you try to blow it out; I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood; I'm going to let it shine;
All around the neighborhood; I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hold it high so all can see; I'm going to let it shine;
Hold it high so all can see; I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

A CLOSING BLESSING

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!