

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 6, 2025

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

p. 117

KYRIE

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 43:16-21

PSALM 126

SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

GOSPEL VERSE #473 ELW:

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you. My heart is glad to say to you: You are holy, God.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 12:1-8

REFLECTION: Our God makes all things new. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

HYMN #583 ELW
#570 LLC

"Take My Life That I May Be"
"Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad"

NICENE CREED

p. 126

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need (*especially*). May all who weep now sing songs of joy again.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and visual art that guides us to you,

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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Here other intercessions may be offered.

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

SHARING of the PEACE

OFFERING Song #188 ELW "Create in Me"

HOLY COMMUNION with LORD'S PRAYER p. 129

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

SUNDAY	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	1:00 p.m.	Jesus the Suffering Servant
	6:00 p.m.	Spanish Worship at Holy Trinity
WEDNESDAY	noon	Midweek Lenten Worship
	8:00 p.m.	AA

Let us pray for...

Kurt Kusserow, **Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod**
Peter Asplin, Melissa Stoller, **Assistants to the Bishop**
Elizabeth Eaton, **Presiding Bishop, ELCA**
Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, **President, Lutheran World Federation**
President Modeste, **Tulear Synod, Malagasy Lutheran Church**

HEALING & SPECIAL NEEDS: George & Debbie K., asylum seekers especially children, Rachel F., Peggy E., Marilyn & Brian H., Rose & Chip, Rita, Judy H., Kirk D., Noah, Karen M., Len & Carole, Roni, Karin, Tommy C., Karen S., Darlene & Al, Lana, Dayton, Jeffery, Don W., Mindy, Nancy, Aligha, Ron R., Zach F., Katie, Ed R., Tyler C., Nan, Sandra, Lisa, Bill, Amy, Tony, Marylene, Yuri, Roy, Lynn F., Pr. Tony, Shelly, Debbie, Myschel, Dawn, Danny M., Pr. Dona, Pete, Alex, Barbara, Cheyanne, Anna, Amanda & baby, Holly, Ruth Y., Mitzi, Pat N, Lynn F.'s brother, Charlie, David, Francesca, John, & all with flu, RSV, COVID and unknown illnesses.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: Marge Graham; Richard Varlotto; William Neal.

NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Jane Freund (Concordia Ridgewood-Plum); Shirley & Jack Pickens (William Penn Center); Roni Mayhood (Merakey); Esther Schwab (Seneca Manor); June Minnear (Beatty Point Village); Evelyn Rae Dodson (Seneca Place).

CAREGIVERS: Judy M., Chris, Chip, Rebecca, Darlene, Elaine.

EMPLOYMENT: Yelisbeth, Cassie, Tyler.

COUNTRY OF THE MONTH: United States

MISSION PARTNER: Holy Trinity - East Pittsburgh

CHURCH OF THE MONTH: Good Shepherd

LUTHERAN AGENCY: Lutheran Service Society

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH: Gateway Middle School

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm: Psalm 126

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**
³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**
⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own,

because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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