FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Reasons to Rejoice, Even During Lent!

AS WE GATHER

From the outside looking in, our walking together through the forty days of Lent does not seem nearly as exciting as the cheerfulness of Christmas or the elation of Easter, which we will experience two short weeks from today. Yet there is much joy to be found! There’s a great reason to rejoice! God blesses us with time together today to fix our eyes on Jesus and receive Him who was rejected for our redemption, forsaken for our forgiveness, and sacrificed for our salvation. Following the example of Paul, we cast everything else aside and find joy—true, lasting, eternal joy—in “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:8). Jesus longs for us to receive Him as He reveals Himself by His Word and Spirit, learning to know Him for who He truly is and what He has come to give. Christ alone is our joy—at Christmas, at Easter, during the season of Lent, and every day we are given! “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4).
PRELUDES  “Dearest Jesus, We Are Here”  Paul Manz  
              “Praise My Soul the King of Heaven”  John Goss, arr. Lani Smith

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL  Congregation, please stand.

HYMN  “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”  LSB 909

INVOCATION

Pastor:  In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People:  Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor:  In humility and faith, let us come before the Lord, counting everything as loss for the sake of knowing Christ Jesus, our Lord.
People:  We count all things as rubbish, in order that we may gain Christ and be found in Him.
Pastor:  If righteousness before God were to depend on our obedience of the Law, we would all be lost and condemned forever.
People:  But our righteousness depends on faith alone; therefore, we trust in Christ, who suffered, died, and rose again for us.
Pastor:  Confident in the work of our Savior, we confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence for reflection and confession

Pastor:  Father in heaven, be merciful to me, a sinner.
People:  Father in heaven, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
Pastor:  Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People:  Amen.
Pastor:  Forget what lies behind! Strain toward what lies ahead!
People:  We press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus!
KYRIE (spoken)

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People: Have mercy on us sinners.
Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People: Have mercy on us sinners.
Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People: Have mercy on us sinners, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

VERSICLE Philippians 4:4

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always;
People: again I will say, Rejoice.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21
(The Lord gives refreshment in the wilderness to His chosen people.)*

This is what the LORD says—he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,
who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.
The wild animals honor me, 
the jackals and the owls, 
because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, 
to give drink to my people, my chosen, 
the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord. 
People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL Hebrews 12:2

Lector: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, 
People: the founder and perfecter of our faith, 
Lector: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, 
People: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle: Philippians 3:8-14
(Everything is counted as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ.)

What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord. 
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Lenten Verse and the Gospel.

VERSE Luke 20:17b

Pastor: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. 
People: Praise to Christ, the Founder and Perfector of our faith!
He went on to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out. "Then the owner of the vineyard said, `What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.' "But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. `This is the heir,' they said. `Let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When the people heard this, they said, "May this never be!"

Jesus looked directly at them and asked, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written:"

"`The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone'? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people. Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be honest. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor.
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Not Unto Us, O Lord”
Donald Busarow
Congregation and Ascension Chorale

Not unto Us, O Lord

Refrain – choir and congregation

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto

us, O Lord, but to your name give

glory, to your name give glory!

Choir:
The Lord our God is in our midst, a helper who gives victory.
He will rejoice over us with gladness,
he will renew us in his love. Refrain

For the sake of your steadfast love, O Lord,
and for your faithfulness.
He will exult over us with loud singing
as in the day of a festival,
and at that time he will bring us home
when he gathers us together. Refrain

Text: Psalm 115:1; Zeph. 3:17, 20
Music: Donald Busarow

Scripture is from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, 1971 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission.

Not unto Us, O Lord, by Donald Busarow, ISBN 0-8006-5965-1
Copyright © 2000 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Permission is hereby granted for duplication of this page for congregational use, but not sale, provided each copy carries this copyright notice.

SERMON

“Trapped”
Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Philippians 3:4-14

APOSTLES’ CREED

Text found in the back of the Hymnal.
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to joyfully lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us Your joy.

Pastor: Grant that Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil’s kingdom to come to know You by faith and find their righteousness in Jesus Christ, Your Son, that the number of Christians be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us Your joy.

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [names . . . and] all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us Your joy.

Pastor: [Other intercessions may be offered here…] Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us Your joy.

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs, rejoicing always in Your fatherly care. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us Your joy.

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts be at peace and rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us Your joy.

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil as he seeks to rob us of our joy and confidence in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us Your joy.

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us Your joy.

Pastor: We joyfully trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.
THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

We share the Lord’s peace with one another, saying, “Peace be with you.”

OFFERING “Yes Jesus Loves Me”
Mary McDonald
Ascension Chorale

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
People: And also with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]
People: We lift them to the Lord. [Psalm 136]
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting Four)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sab - a - oth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the high-est, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blест is He who comes in the name of the Lord!


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER  (Matthew 6:9–13)  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.
Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting Four)

1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world away;
You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,

Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”
Verses 1-4

“Jesus Priceless Treasure” (Organ)
David Schack

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION Philippians 4:4

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always;
People: again I will say, Rejoice.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN “The Church’s One Foundation”
Verses 1-2, 4-5

LSB 571
David Schack
LSB 427

LSB 644
Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I PRESS ON to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has MADE ME HIS OWN.

Philippians 3:12, ESV
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
Diana Gaide

YOUTH BAND
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER
Scott Luethy
8:00
Roger Gaide
10:30

LECTOR
Ted Lemke
8:00
Carol Shepherd
10:30

ACOLYTE
Ann Ranisate
8:00
Holly Schmitt
10:30

USHERS
Art Gordon, Members of the Congregation
8:00
Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation
10:30

SERVER
Kathy Johnson
10:30

ALTAR GUILD
Charmaine Rohde, Laurel Shurtleff, Barb Williams

FLOWERS
Ellen Thompson, in celebration of her daughter, Terry’s, birthday and in loving memory of her husband, Ralph (d. 4/6/2009)

CCLI License #1903595

... this one thing I do:
forfeiting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead ...

Philippians 3:13, NRSV