

Sunday, March 18, 2018  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

**PRELUDE**

*“Prelude on Hamburg”*

Charles Callahan

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *\*Kneel or sit as you are able*

☞ Merciful God,

☞ you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.

**We confess that we have strayed from you  
and turned aside from your way.**

**We fail in love, neglect justice,  
and ignore your truth.**

**Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.**

**Create in us clean hearts**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!**

☞ Behold, now is the acceptable time;  
now is the day of salvation.

Almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us all our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

☞ Amen!

**\*GATHERING SONG**

*“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

**ELW 338**

**Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;**

I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

**\*GREETING**

**P** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*“Kyrie”*

**ELW 157**

**P** In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,  
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For your people here who have come to give you praise,  
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, and defend us, O God.

**C** **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** *O God,*

**C** **with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers.  
Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may  
live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

**ANTHEM**

*“There Is a Redeemer”*  
Chancel Choir

Melody Green

## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says 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. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### Reflection

*“The days are surely coming, says the Lord...” What do you think of when you hear these words? What will happen when those days come? (verse 31) Remember what a covenant is? A promise between two parties, for example, marriage. Or the promise made by God to Noah (Genesis 9:8-17) or the covenant with Israel after they were freed from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 21-24). What is the difference between this new covenant and the covenant God made with the ancestors who were freed from Egypt? (verse 32) What happened to that covenant? What will be the sign of the new covenant? (verse 33) How will the people (that is, us!) learn the new covenant? (verses 33-34) What is God’s promise in this new covenant? What will happen to our sins as a result of the new covenant? How is it possible to live in this new covenant, when sins are wiped from the memory? This is a beautiful promise. But I can think of times when “forgive and forget” is not a good plan. Sometimes forgive and remember is important, especially when someone has hurt you more than once. What happens to you when you know someone forgives you? Do you keep on doing the same things? Or do you live into the forgiveness and remember (perhaps not in your mind but in your heart) that you have been forgiven. What do you think?*

## PSALM 51:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother’s womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

### **Reflection**

*This psalm is titled, "A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba." (If you can't remember this story, see 2 Samuel 11:1-12:23) This is no "I apologize to anyone I might have offended" mumbling. What does the psalmist (presumably David) call what he has done? (verses 1-2) What happens when you sin, do something evil that hurts someone else? (verse 3) Although David surely sinned against Uriah and Bathsheba, and many other people, who did he also sin against? (verse 4) Part of the story of David's sin was his assumption and action that he could do anything he wanted if he covered it up. What did he come to realize? (verses 5-6) Can he forgive himself? (verses 7-9) What is the result of being forgiven by God? (verses 10-12) Have you ever experienced being forgiven and then experiencing the joy of cleansing? One of the disciplines of Lent (and indeed, one of the disciplines of the Christian life) is to be honest with yourself and with your sisters and brothers. How might this psalm and our brother David's experience that made him create this psalm guide your Lenten journey?*

### **SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 5:5-10**

*Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.*

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you";

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek."

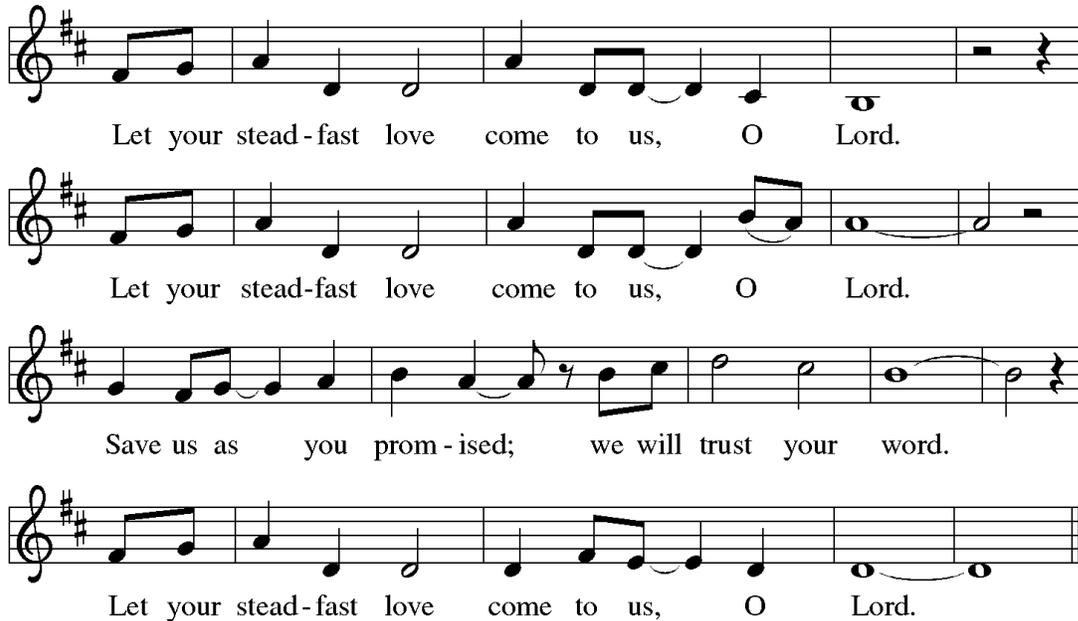
<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

## Reflection

*One of the things I've always hoped for is that I can just learn how to be a good Christian without making dreadful mistakes, but my experience is that isn't how it goes. As I read this text, I realize that desiring to be without sin is a desire to glorify myself. How was Christ glorified? (verses 5-6) Who made him a high priest? What kinds of prayers and supplications did Jesus pray? (verse 7) Was Jesus saved from suffering and death? (verse 8—although you already know the answer!) What happened for us as a result of Jesus' suffering? (verse 9)*

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

## \*GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This

voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

### **Reflection**

*When do the events of this text take place? (See John 12:12-15) I always see this text as a sort of a play, and it makes me want to go up to the stage and look behind the curtain and see what is really happening! John’s gospel is full of conversations when Jesus seems to hear something that I cannot hear. What happens in verses 20-22? What is Jesus’ response when he hears this request? (verse 23) Jesus makes clear here what he intends. How it works that way is something that readers of John have wrestled with since the gospel was written, I think. What will happen? (verse 23) How will Jesus be glorified? (verses 24-26) It makes no earthly sense that someone can be glorified by losing his life? What does Jesus intend? (verses 25-26) But Jesus is not a martyr, seeking to give up his life for a lost cause. How does he humanly approach what is coming? (verse 27) I think his disciples would say, “Yes, you should pray that the Father will save you from this hour!” And yet, how does Jesus understand what will happen? (verses 27-28) In Matthew and Luke, the voice from heaven comes when Jesus is baptized, and transfigured. In John, it comes as Jesus speaks about his coming death. What do you think this means? What will happen when Jesus is “lifted up”? (verse 33) What will be the result of Jesus’ being lifted up? (verses 31-32) Who does Jesus come to draw to himself? (verse 32) Is this something that humans can say no to? If you return to John 1, what is the purpose of the Word made flesh? (John 1:1-18) John’s declaration is that salvation comes not only to humans but to all creation. What do you think?*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

***“Coming To Jesus”***

Rev. Jim Pierce

**HYMN OF THE DAY *“I Want to Know You”***

**In the secret in the quiet place  
In the stillness You are there  
In the secret in the quiet hour  
I wait only for You  
'Cause I want to know You more**

***Refrain***

**I want to know You  
I want to hear Your voice  
I want to know You more  
I want to touch You  
I want to see Your face  
I want to know You more**

I am reaching for the highest goal  
That I might receive the prize  
Pressing onward  
Pushing every hindrance aside  
Out of my way  
'Cause I want to know You more  
more and more *Refrain*

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

☒ I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen!

**\*PRAYER SONG**

*"Come and Fill Our Hearts"*

**ELW 528**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
Amen!

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and service. We pray for evangelists, pastors, prophets, teachers, and all servants of the church. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. For seeds planted in hope of an abundant harvest. For fertile soils and sufficient rains. For shepherds and ranchers, farmworkers and seafood harvesters. For flowers and berries. For orchards, vineyards, and citrus groves. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. For countries embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. Grant wisdom to the world's decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the well-being of all people. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. For all who suffer in any way. For those who are lonely or isolated. For those seeking employment. For those who approach the hour of their death, and all who are ill *especially* Curtis, Roxanna, Mary Anna, Kay, and Linda and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly and the South Sudanese Congregation. For those preparing for baptism. For visitors, newcomers, and those who are returning after an extended absence. Deepen us in faith. Fill us with hope, and draw us all into your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially those who have been witnesses and examples to us. Bring us with them to the promise of resurrection and life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**G** **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

***"Glorify Thy Name"***

Father we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Jesus we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Spirit we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heav'nly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Amen

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** *Merciful God,*

**C** receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen!

**\*DIALOGUE**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

**P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.*

*You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,*

*with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, Holy,  
Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full,  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**C** **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!

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** *Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.*

**\*BLESSING**

**P** *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**C** **Amen!**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** *Compassionate God,*

**C** **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** *May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
and claimed us as children of the light,  
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you  $\neq$  peace.*

**C** **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG**

***"That's Why We Praise Him"***

**He came to live live a perfect life  
He came to be the living word, our light  
He came to die so we'd be reconciled  
He came to rise, to show His pow'r and might**

***Refrain***

**That's why we praise Him, that's why we sing  
That's why we offer Him our ev'rything  
That's why we bow down and worship this King  
'Cause He gave His ev'rything  
'Cause He gave His ev'rything**

**He came to live, live again in us  
He came to be our conquering King and friend  
He came to heal and show the lost ones His love  
He came to go prepare a place for us *Refrain***