

Sunday, April 7, 2019
Fifth Sunday in Lent

***GATHERING SONG**

"Cry of My Heart"

It is the cry of my heart
To follow You
It is the cry of my heart
To be close to You
It is the cry of my heart
To follow
All of the days of my life *(repeat)*

Teach me Your holy ways oh Lord
So I can walk in Your truth
Teach me Your holy ways oh Lord
And make me wholly devoted to You
Oh oh whoa

It is the cry of my heart
To follow You
It is the cry of my heart
To be close to You
It is the cry of my heart
To follow
All of the days of my life

Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that You do
Open my heart up more and more
And make it wholly devoted to You
Oh oh whoa

It is the cry of my heart
To follow You
It is the cry of my heart
To be close to You
It is the cry of my heart
To follow
All of the days of my life *(repeat)*

Ending
All of the days of my life (4X)

***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 *Creator God,*

C **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!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Broken and Spilled Out”
Sharmyn Thompson

Bill George

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord 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.

Reflection

Who is the Lord? (verses 16-17) Do you recognize the references to what the Lord has done in the Exodus story? (See Exodus 14) Why do you think Isaiah (speaking for the Lord) reminds his hearers of the Exodus? Especially when the next verse says, “Do not remember the former things.” (verse 18) Why not? (verse 19) What does it mean to make “rivers in the desert”? This is the opposite of making dry land in the sea! What is the reason for this? (verse 20) Imagine if the wild animals honor the Lord. What does that mean for the people? (verse 21) What does this text have to say about our Lenten journey?

Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes 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 for- | tunes, 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, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

Reflection

What does the psalmist remember in this psalm? We’ve just been through a flood—and who knows what else is coming? What is the difference between what we’ve just been through, and what the people are experiencing in this psalm? What comes when the desert is full of water? (verses 4-6) Even though we are worried about more flooding, can we rejoice with people who experience the life-giving water in the desert? How does this psalm mark our Lenten journey?

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. ¹³Beloved, 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reflection

What are Paul's credentials as a religious person? (verses 4b-6) What good do they do him? (verses 7-8) I love theology, and one of the joys of my life is trying to figure out what this text (and others) means theologically. If I read Paul, and take him seriously as a mentor, that's not what is important, that I can speak theologically. In fact, Paul says he is willing to "suffer the loss of all things, and regard them as rubbish" because they do nothing to help him know Christ. What is important to Paul? (verse 9) What would it mean to be righteous on the basis of faith in Christ? What do you think it means to become like Christ in his death? (verse 10) What does the death of Christ lead to? (verse 11) Is this anything we can achieve on our own? How does the resurrection from the dead come to us? How does this guide our Lenten journey?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

pg. 189

**Let your steadfast love
come to us, O Lord.
Let your steadfast love
come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised;
we will trust your word.
Let your steadfast love
come to us, O Lord.**

***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.

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary 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. ⁴But 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.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Reflection

Here is another "last supper" with friends. Who are the friends Jesus is eating with? Martha is evidently the one who serves the meal. This reminds me of the meal in Luke 10:38-42. There is nothing wrong with serving! (verses 1-2) What does Mary do? (verse 3) What is Judas's reaction? (verse 4) What is his problem with what Mary has done? (verses 5-6) How does Jesus defend Mary? (verse 7) Have you ever felt like being extravagant in your love and thanks to Jesus? I've often read this passage as saying, "we should honor Jesus before we care for the poor." As I read it this time, I think it's saying, as we honor the poor, we honor Jesus. Jesus is with us, but not in a way that needs our extravagance. Now, we can be extravagant in our honoring and caring for the poor. What do you think?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Eugene Lickenbrock

SERMON

"Restoration"

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"Soul On Fire"

God I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart
'Til I am a soul on fire
Lord I'm longing for Your ways
I'm waiting for the day
When I am a soul on fire
'Til I am a soul on fire

God I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart
'Til I am a soul on fire
Lord I'm longing for Your ways
I'm waiting for the day
When I am a soul on fire

'Til I am a soul on fire

Lord restore the joy I had
I have wandered bring me back
In this darkness lead me through
Until all I see is You yeah

God I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart
'Til I am a soul on fire
Lord I'm longing for Your ways
I'm waiting for the day
When I am a soul on fire
'Til I am a soul on fire

Lord let me burn for You again
Let me return to You again
And Lord let me burn for You again
And let me return to You again

God I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart
'Til I am a soul on fire
Lord I'm longing for Your ways
I'm waiting for the day
When I am a soul on fire (*repeat*)

God I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart
'Til I am a soul on fire
'Til I am a soul on fire
'Til I am a soul on fire

***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**

“Let My Prayer Be a Fragrant Offering”

**Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,
as incense to you arise.
Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,
my hands lifted up in praise.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of resurrection and new life, inspire your church to reconsider what makes us holy. When we focus on our own piety or others' sin, show us Christ's faithfulness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Wherever destruction by flood, famine, or fire has devastated land and lives, cause green shoots to spring up, giving hope and vision for your promised future. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Where nations are embroiled in chaos and unrest, cut a clear path for your people to follow. Lead us in ways of reconciliation, and foretell the new things you prepare. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Wipe away the tears of those who weep under the burdens of hard labor and illness *especially Phil, Roxanna, Dorothy, Trina, Linda, Elaine, Lisa and her baby Lara, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds)*. Restore them, and bring them into the joy of your presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Permeate this world with the sweet perfume of Christ's anointing. Fill your people with such gratitude that it spills over into service of those who are poor or in any need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany those for whom death draws near. Bring us with all your saints to receive the abundance of heavenly glory through the covenant Christ sealed in his death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

C **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"I Am the Bread of Life"

**I am the Bread of Life
All who eat this Bread will never die
I am God's love revealed
I am broken that you might be healed**

**All who eat of this heavenly Bread
All who drink this cup of the covenant
You will live forever
For I will raise you up**

**I am the Bread of Life
All who eat this Bread will never die
I am God's love revealed
I am broken that you might be healed**

**No one who comes to Me shall ever hunger again
No one who believes shall ever thirst
All that the Father draws shall come to Me
And I will give them rest**

**I am the Bread of Life
All who eat this Bread will never die
I am God's love revealed
I am broken that you might be healed**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Make Me a Servant"

**Make me a servant
humble and meek
Lord let me lift up
those who are weak
And may the prayer
of my heart always be
Make me a servant
make me a servant
Make me a servant today**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Generous God,*

C **you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. 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 of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he 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 *Gathered together in one baptism, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

C **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.*

***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 *Tender and merciful one,*

C **at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled**

with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

***BENEDICTION**

P *God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.*

C Amen!

***SENDING SONG**

“Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”

ELW 333

Refrain

Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in a time of storm.

No one can do like Jesus,
not a mumbling word he said;
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave,
and he raised him from the dead. *Refrain*

When Jesus was on earth,
the flesh was very weak;
he took a towel and girded himself
and he washed his disciples' feet. *Refrain*

Yonder comes my Savior,
him whom I love so well;
he has the palm of victory
and the keys of death and hell. *Refrain*

***DISMISSAL**

P *Go in peace. Remember the poor.*

C Thanks be to God!