

5th Sunday of Lent + Sunday, March 29, 2020

Today's Order of Service: *This morning we incorporate into our service the "Suffrages." A series of responsive prayers that date back many centuries—perhaps even to the times of the early church. These "Suffrages" are short heartfelt intercessions that lead us before God and emphasize the trust that we place in Him to hear us and to answer our prayers. As we today make this prayer our own, we join together with the saints who came before us. As they faced their own trials and tribulations, they turned to God for His divine help, comfort, and providence. We do the same, pleading with Him to keep and preserve us in this challenging time. The Lessons for this Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Lent, also known as "Judica" Sunday, also keep us focused on the fact that we have this great privilege that we can turn to God and trust in Him! He has given us His divine promises and has fulfilled those promises through our great "High Priest" and "Mediator," Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 9:11-15) In Jesus we have a loving brother who desires to help us with our sin, but He also has the power to help us. Jesus is the "greater than Abraham," the one that Abraham was looking forward to seeing—the great "I am." (John 8:46-59) We, who have Jesus as our own by faith, continue to put our trust in Him and in His promises. This keeps us going even through times of trial and tribulation (Genesis 22:1-14)*

~ *The Suffrages (Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, p. 140)*

~Opening Hymn 274 *O When Our Heads Are Bowed with Woe*

1. *When our heads are bowed with woe,
When our bitter tears o'erflow,
When we mourn the lost, the dear;
Jesus, Son of Mary, hear!*

4. *Thou hast bowed the dying head,
Thou the blood of life hast shed,
Thou hast filled a mortal bier;
Jesus, Son of Mary, hear!*

2. *Thou our throbbing flesh hast worn,
Thou our mortal griefs hast borne,
Thou hast shed the human tear;
Jesus, Son of Mary, hear!*

5. *When the heart is sad within
With the thought of all its sin,
When the spirit shrinks with fear;
Jesus, Son of Mary, hear!*

3. *When the solemn death-bell tolls
For our own departing souls,
When our final doom is near;
Jesus, Son of Mary, hear!*

6. *Thou the shame, the grief, hast known,
Though the sins were not Thine own,
Thou hast deigned their load to bear;
Jesus, Son of Mary, hear!*

~**Invocation** — *Calling upon the Triune God*

(ELH p. 60; Matt 28:19)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

~**The Suffrages** —

(Read Responsively-ELH p. 140)

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

(The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13)

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.

(The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall come 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.

Lord, be merciful to me; *(Read Responsively- Psalm 41:4)*
Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Return, O Lord! How long? *(Psalm 90:13)*
And have compassion on Your servants.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, *(Psalm 33:22)*
Just as we hope in You.

Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, *(Psalm 132:9)*
And let Your saints shout for joy.

O Lord, save our rulers, *(Psalm 20:9)*
Let them hear us when we call.

Save Your people and bless Your inheritance; *(Psalm 28:9)*
Shepherd them also, and lift them up forever.

Remember Your congregation, *(Psalm 74:2)*
Which You have purchased of old.

Peace be within your walls, *(Psalm 122:7)*
Prosperity within your palaces.

Let us pray for those of the faith who are not present with us: *(Psalm 86:2)*
Save Your servants who trust in You.

Let us pray for the broken-hearted and the captives: *(Psalm 25:22)*
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their troubles.

Send them help from the sanctuary, *(Psalm 20:2)*
And strengthen them out of Zion.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, *(Psalm 102:1)*
And let my cry come before You.

Psalm 130 *(Read by all)* *(ELH p. 141)*

**Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD;
Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.
If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.**

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning;
Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy,
And with Him is abundant redemption.
And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

~ *The Service of the Word*

~Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 9:11-15 But when Christ appeared as the high priest of the good things that were coming, he went through the greater and more complete tent, which was not made by human hands (that is, it is not part of this creation). He entered once into the Most Holy Place and obtained eternal redemption, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood. Now if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkled on those who were unclean, sanctifies them so that their flesh is clean, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works, so that we worship the living God? For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant. A death took place as payment for the trespasses committed under the first covenant, so that those who are called would receive the promised eternal inheritance.

~Gospel Lesson

John 8: 46-59 Who of you can convict me of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? Whoever belongs to God listens to what God says. The reason you do not listen is that you do not belong to God."

The Jews responded, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon. On the contrary, I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. I do not seek my own glory. There is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. Amen, Amen, I tell you: If anyone holds on to my word, he will certainly never see death."

So the Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets. Yet you say, 'If anyone holds on to my word, he will certainly never taste death.' You are not greater than our father, Abraham, are you? He died. And the prophets died. Who do you think you are?"

Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, about whom you say, 'He is our God.' Yet you do not really know him, but I do know him. If I said, 'I do not know him,' I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I hold on to his word. Your father Abraham was glad that he would see my day. He saw it and rejoiced."

The Jews replied, "You aren't even fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Before Abraham was born, I am." Then they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden and left the temple area.

~Hymn 331, vv. 1, 2, 9 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

*1. A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of all men bearing;
And laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing!
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer;
Bears shame and stripes, and wounds and death,
Anguish and mockery, and saith,
"Willing all this I suffer."*

*2. This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great Friend,
The Lamb of God, our Savior;
Him God the Father chose to send
To gain for us His favor.
"Go forth, My Son," the Father saith,
"And free men from the fear of death,
From guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by Thy Passion men shall share
The fruit of Thy salvation."*

*9. Of death I am no more afraid,
New life from Thee is flowing;
Thy cross affords me cooling shade
When day's hot sun is glowing.
When by my grief I am oppressed,
On Thee my weary soul shall rest
And o'er grief's ills so conquer.
And when beneath life's stormy woe
My ship is driven to and fro,
So art Thou then my Anchor.*

~Old Testament Lesson & Sermon Text

Genesis 22:1-14 Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, "Abraham!" Abraham answered, "I am here."

God said, "Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct you."

Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.

Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father?"

He said, "I am here, my son."

He said, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them went on together. They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

The Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!"

Abraham said, "I am here."

He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham called the name of that place "The Lord Will Provide." So it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

~Sermon Message

"In Times of Testing and Trial—We Rely on God's Promises"

~ The Suffrages (...continued- ELH, p. 141)

~Canticle Hymn 66 *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*

1. *Come, let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne.
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.*

3. *Jesus is worthy to receive
Honor and pow'r divine;
And blessings more than we can give
Be, Lord, forever Thine.*

2. *"Worthy the Lamb that died," they cry,
"To be exalted thus."
"Worthy the Lamb," our lips reply,
For He was slain for us.*

4. *Let all creation join in one
To bless the sacred name
Of Him that sits upon the throne
And to adore the Lamb.*

P: Restore us, O God of hosts;

(Psalm 80:7)

C: Cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

Arise for our help, O Christ,

(Psalm 44:26)

And redeem us for Your mercy's sake.

O Lord, incline Your ear to me;

(Psalm 102: 2)

Answer me speedily when I call.

~Special Prayers & Petitions

~Collect for the Day

(Lent 5, ELH p. 153)

P: We beseech You, almighty God, mercifully to look upon Your people, that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore in both body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Let us bless the Lord!

(ELH p. 141)

Thanks be to God!

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

Amen.

~Closing Hymn 331, v. 10 *And When Thy Glory I Shall See*

*10. And when Thy glory I shall see
And taste Thy kingdom's pleasure,
Thy blood my royal robe shall be,
My joy beyond all measure;
When I appear before Thy throne,
Thy righteousness shall be my crown,
With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought
As Thine own bride, I shall be brought
To stand in joy beside Thee.*

Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich + Organist: Cassie Johnson

*Thanks to all who involved in the recording of our Service today! Thanks to all who have tuned in
and are watching on the internet and on KTV!*

*Please make use of the Online and Text Message giving options for your offerings. There is more
information on how to do this on our church website: www.mtolivelutheran.org
You may also mail in your offering as well.*

*Please contact the church office if you are in need of any spiritual assistance. Our Pastors and
Vicar are here to assist you with your spiritual needs.*