Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Allie Snodgrass – "Lamb of God," by Twila Paris

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

Silence for Reflection and Confession

P: Most merciful God,
C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

* *Call to Worship* – "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" *(piano)*

Refrain: ***Come, now is the time to worship.***
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God. One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those, who gladly trust you now. *Refrain*

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray ...
C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise – "He Is Exalted" *(piano)*

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high. I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord. Forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

WORD

Reading: Psalm 102:12-17 Reader: Carol Kilver

12 But you, O LORD, are enthroned for ever;
your name endures to all generations.
13 You will rise up and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to favor it;
the appointed time has come.
14 For your servants hold its stones dear,
and have pity on its dust.
15 The nations will fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
16 For the LORD will build up Zion;
he will appear in his glory.
17 He will regard the prayer of the destitute,
and will not despise their prayer.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Reading:* Mark 13:1-8, 24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

1 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' 2 Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' 5 Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

24 'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,
[25]and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

[26]Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. [27]Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

[28]'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29]So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30]Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. [31]Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32]'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33]Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. [34]It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35]Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, [36]or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37]And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: "Throwing Down or Gathering Up"

Song of the Day – "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 597 *(organ)*

1 **My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;**
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: ***On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.***

2 **When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;**
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

3 **His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;**
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

4 **When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,**
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

**The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

Sandi Watts, organ

Stewardship is about our grateful response to God's grace for us. How do you respond? If you would like to financially support our ministry together, you can place a donation in an offering box or through our website. If you would like to support our ministry together through service, you can find a list of ministry teams online or on our ministry team menu. Consider joining a ministry team, or starting a new one, today!

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

**Great Thanksgiving*

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.

**Words of Institution*

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*

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.

Communion Songs

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" ELW 742 *(organ)*

1. **What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!**
   What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
   Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear –
   All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

2. **Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?**
   We should never be discouraged -- take it to the Lord in prayer.
   Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
   Jesus knows our every weakness -- take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. **Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?**
   Precious Savior, still our refuge -- take it to the Lord in prayer.
   Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
   In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

"Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" *(piano)*

1. **Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded sick and sore;**
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

2. **Come, ye thirsty come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;**
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.

Refrain: ***I will arise and go to Jesus; He will embrace me in his arms;***
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

3. **Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;**
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. *Refrain*

4. **Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;**
All the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him. *Refrain*

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: 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.
C: Amen.

**Sending Song* – "How Great Thou Art" ELW 856 *(organ)*

1 **O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder**
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

2 **When through the woods and forest glades I wander,**
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain*

3 **But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,**
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

4 **When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,**
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner
Greeter: Liddy Stark
Reader: Carol Kilver
Usher: Barb Davenport
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Sabbatical Pastor: Paul Schwartzkopf
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Pianist: Jean Welch
Drummer: John Demien
Financial Assistants: Gaylon Martin & Monica Proefrock
Chancel Committee: Mary Jane Esslinger & Kim Heise
Coffee Hosts: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson

Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth	Carol VanderKloot
Louis Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Cole Street	
Marilyn Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Melissa Street	

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Gaylon Martin	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, March 17, 9:30am: Worship **Newsletter Deadline**
10:45am: Sunday School
10:55am: Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group
10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library
6:00pm: Lenten Potluck Supper
6:45pm: Lenten Worship & Workshop in the Great Room

Thursday, March 21, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Sunday, March 24, 9:30am: Worship – Palm Sunday
10:45am: Sunday School
10:55am: Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 27, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm: Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 29, 7:00pm: Good Friday Tenebrae Service

The Altar Plants are given today
by Liddy Stark in celebration of her daughter Alyssa's birthday
and in memory of the birthday of Hallie and Liddy's mother

Song Credits

"Come, Now is the Time to Worship," words & music by Brian Doerksen, Vineyard Songs, © 1998. CCLI#973583
"He Is Exalted," © 1985, StraightWay Music. CCLI#973583.
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"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy," by Joseph Hart, 1759. In public domain.

News Updates

Sunday School
Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105.

Lenten Wednesday Workshops: "Grounded: Plugging into Faith"
Lent will look a little different this year with Pastor Adam on sabbatical, but please plan to join us for midweek Lenten evenings that will help us learn about ourselves as people of faith and of Faith, and to grow deeper in our relationships with God and each other. Plan to join us in the Great Room on **Wednesday evenings through March 20** for a potluck meal beginning at 6:00pm followed by a time of learning and fellowship at 6:45pm, and take time this Lent to become Grounded in Faith. If you can bring soup or a side for the potluck, please sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coat closet. *Monica Proefrock*

Music Rehearsals – Join us for an Easter Choir!
We plan to gather a group of singers for an **Easter Anthem**! Rehearsals will be on Sundays, March 17 and 24, at 10:55am after the service. Please sign up by the Coffee Sales to let us know you're interested.
Jean Welch, *Music Director*

Faith Family Easter Breakfast 10:30am
Join us after worship for a delicious meal of breakfast casseroles, coffee cakes, and fruit salad. A free-will donation will be collected to support youth retreats and activities this summer. **If you would like to donate food** (casserole, coffee cake, fruit salad, milk, or orange juice), **there is a signup sheet** on the counter by the Fair-Trade Coffee sales.

Easter Altar Plants
We will adorn our altar with live plants on Easter again this year. To make a donation, mark your check or envelope as "Easter Altar Flowers" and place it in the offering box or mail it to the church office.

Discipleship Group
Join our monthly discussion at **10:00am on Wednesday, March 20**, in the Faith Library. This month, we'll discuss the upcoming Holy Week and what it means to us. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Synod Assembly 2024
The **Annual Assembly** of our Central/Southern IL Synod will be June 6-8 in Decatur. Faith is entitled to two (2) lay voting members, plus the pastor. If you are interested in serving as one of the voting members, please contact Kelly Hartz, Pastor Paul, or Kris Roth. We will need to get registrations sent in by April 15.

Men's Breakfast
Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, April 6.** At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for some conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

Book Discussion Group
Please join Kelly Hartz **on Sunday, April 7** immediately following the service for our next book club discussion on "*The Gifts of Imperfection,"* by Brené Brown. Books are available for $10 on the cabinet under the working cross in the gathering area.

Women of Faith Fellowship Night
We are on hiatus during Lent, but will resume meeting in April. Look for more information to come!

Youth Group Help Wanted
One of the hats worn by Pastor Adam is youth leader. In his absence, we are looking for people willing to lead an event, host a meal, or lead a youth Sunday school class. If you are interested, please let Kelly Hartz know. We have a wonderful group of youth, and you would be blessed by your time with them!

Free Concert & Fundraiser for Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center
The popular Christian quartet, Two by Two and K's Creek Golf Club are hosting the Green Pastures Spring Fundraiser **tonight at 6:00 pm at K's Creek**,1265 Sandusky Road, Jacksonville, IL. Featured performers are Two by Two, Roger Wainwright, The Benz Trio, and Hope Cherry. There is no cost to attend. Free will donations to benefit Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center will be gratefully accepted. Beverages, pizza, and appetizers are available for purchase.

Movie at the Illinois Theater
Tonight at 6:00 pm, junior high and high school students are invited to a special showing of 'The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" at the Illinois Theater in Jacksonville. Admission is **FREE** and includes popcorn and drink. Contact Todd Sweatman at 217-370-2008 with any questions, and to secure you or your group's reservation. This movie is part of special events for youth sponsored by the Jacksonville

Area Conference of Churches, Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church, and the Illinois College Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Chaperons will be available from the Illinois College FCA during the event. Invite friends, connected to church or not! It's just an evening of fun for local junior high and high school students!

Easter Egg Hunt at Green Pastures
All are welcome for a special Spring Celebration! There will be crafts, donuts, drinks, story time, prizes, and an egg-hunting activity for walkers to 6th graders. Please join us on **Saturday, March 23, 10-11:30am** (1934 US Hwy 67, Meredosia).

Crisis Center Foundation Supply Collection
Help those in crisis in the Jacksonville Area. The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches and member churches are collecting much-needed items for the Crisis Center Foundation and their clients. The Crisis Center Foundation is a shelter for women, men, and their dependents looking to get away from their abusers while receiving the care and help they need to process their trauma while striving towards independence. Located in Jacksonville, IL, the facility is open 24/7 and provides a wide selection of services to help transition those in need to a safe and happy life. Trained staff is available on their 24-hour hotline at 217-243-4357 to discuss our services and to plan a path forward.

Needed items include:

Toiletries: Shampoo, Conditioner, Bath Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush/paste, Shaving Supplies, Combs/Brushes
Clothing: Socks - all sizes, Underwear - all sizes
Baby Items: Diapers, Pull-ups, Wipes, Lotion, Powder
Gift Cards: Walmart, Dollar General, Gas Station
Shelter Supplies: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kitchen Towels, Dish Cloths, Hot Pads, Storage Containers

We are collecting these items **until March 24, 2024**; please place your donations in the blue box in the Mission and Ministry Center (coat closet) Thank You! Pick up a handy list of needed items on the counter by the coffee sales.

Community Good Friday Service – Jacksonville Conference of Churches

Join together on Friday, March 29 at 12 noon for our Good Friday Service. Speakers and participants from churches throughout the area will come together on this notable day in the Christian year. The event is hosted by First Presbyterian Church at **870 W. College** (Jacksonville) and will be simulcast on the First Presbyterian Facebook page. A special addition to this year's service is a sacred dance group from the St. Louis Salvation Army called *Made to Worship*. A free-will offering will benefit Morgan County Unmet Needs organization.