

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 2021

PRELUDE

Prelude & Fugue in E Minor

J. S. Bach

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our 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.

C Amen.

INTROIT (*from Psalm 119*)

P With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from Your commands.

C I treasure Your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You.

P Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

C With my lips I declare all the laws that come from Your mouth.

P I delight in the way of Your decrees as much as in great riches.

C I will meditate on Your precepts and consider Your ways.

P I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

OPENING HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure,
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

Let us also live with Jesus, He has risen from the dead that to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head. We are Your own living members; where You live, there we shall be in Your presence constantly, living there with You forever. Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Almighty God, Your beloved Son came to bear the pains of the cross for us and thus defeat the power of the evil one. Renew our hearts daily to follow Him, until we come at last to joy and glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵So also 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"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." ⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

P Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,
C **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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.

²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. 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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Jesus, I will ponder now on Your holy passion;
with Your Spirit me endow for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
of Your suff'ring, pain, and death that I may not perish.

If my sins give me alarm and my conscience grieve me,
let Your cross my fear disarm; peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won by Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

Graciously my faith renew; help me bear my crosses,
learning humbleness from You, peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
that I may in heav'n above sing Your praise forever.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Heavenly Father, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us to write Your Word on our hearts, that we might know You as the God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Your Son came not to be served, but to serve. We give You thanks for the faithful service of all who seek to follow You, especially the quietest ones we may not even notice. Help us to humbly serve one another in our homes, communities and congregation as Christ has served us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You watch over, protect and defend us through the service of others. Guide all who have been given positions of authority, that they may act wisely and for the common good. Be with those who serve in the military, police, and first responders, especially as they face harm or danger in the line of duty. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Your Son endured suffering in offering up His life for us. Bless, sustain and relieve all who suffer in our midst, that walking the way of the cross, they may be strengthened in faith and know fullness of life. We pray especially for all on our prayer line and those we remember before You now... (PAUSE). Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son, You have delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. Comfort all who mourn, that they may see clearly the promise of eternal life in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who taught 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.

CLOSING HYMN

Glory Be to Jesus

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
poured for me the lifeblood from His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
blest be His compassion, infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream
which from endless torment did the world redeem!

Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder praise the precious blood!

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.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Glory Be to Jesus

John Behnke

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:

Lector Mimi Blanco

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