

5th Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020

Fifth



SUNDAY

IN LENT



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Greetings

Greetings to you in the love and peace of Jesus Christ!

Crossing the Threshold

We continue on our journey through Lent as we step inside the heartbreaking story of saying goodbye to friends. We put ourselves in the picture of Holy Week so that we might take a closer look and let the ancient story open us to listen to one another and treasure each other—all equal and precious in the eyes of God.

Jesus' words at the Last Supper were shocking to those in attendance. His words can seem familiar, even comforting to us because we hear these words every time we have communion,. But at the moment of their utterance, they were anything but "usual." This week we enter the scene of that last supper long enough to get a grasp of the shock that would have rippled through Jesus' friends. Partaking of body and blood? Not kosher! A "Lord" washing feet like a servant? Unbelievable! Breaking bread with the enemy? What?! But Jesus knew his time was up. And it was time for the disciples to get the message, even if it came in a shocking way: love one another as I have loved you—by serving, forgiving, freeing, communing—becoming one with—God.

Music Response

(During lent we have been singing these words are part of our entry into worship—what we call Crossing the Threshold, between regular time and worship time. If you remember the melody, feel free to sing this; if you don't, then just say it as a prayer and an invitation to yourself to enter the gospel story we are reading today, and to enter into the long story of Christianity that we are part of.)

Enter

Enter the passion

Enter the place we belong

Not just looking on

For this is our passion

Enter the passion

Enter

Enter the passion

Enter the place we belong

Not just looking on

For this is our passion

Enter the passion

Confession

Sometimes we just aren't paying attention. We can keep our heads in the sand when we really need to attend to difficult situations, or the needs of your people. Forgive us, O God. As we physically distance ourselves, guard us from emotionally or spiritually distancing ourselves, and help us to care for what's right in front of us. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know this: Our lives contain continual opportunities to be in humble service to friends and strangers. You are forgiven and freed, encouraged and loved By a God who wants you to live fully. You are forgiven!

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Scripture

John 13:3–16

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.

Sermon (*Watch the video.*)

Offering (*Your offerings can be brought to the office or mailed in.*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Benediction

May the LORD bless you and keep you; may God's light shine on you and through you and be gracious to you; may the face of the Holy One be turned toward you and give you peace. Amen.

This liturgy was written by Worship Design Studio, modified by Pastor David, and used with permission.

Spiritual Care Package

Questions for Reflection

Samuel is told that God does not look upon outward appearances, but looks upon the heart. Then God chooses David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be Israel's next king. We know that as he grew and as life became very challenging, King David's heart was not pure. He was a mixture of great courage and faithfulness—and great sin and failure. What do you suppose God saw and loved in David's heart? What do you think God loves when God looks upon your own heart?

Household Prayer: Morning

Good morning, Lord. The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight, and I awaken from sleep into the light and grace of Christ. Thank you for this new day. Stay with me, I pray, shepherding me through all that the day will hold. Lead me into pleasant places, and give me the provisions I will need if I find myself in difficulty or danger. Whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation I begin this day; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

With the night, Good Lord, comes rest, and a chance for my soul to be restored. You are with me in this and every darkness, so I will not be afraid. For all I have seen with my own eyes today, for all others have helped me to see, I give you thanks. For those things that I did not notice: signs of beauty and kindness, evidences of your grace, I pray that you will improve the eyes of my faith so that I can see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and all my tomorrows. In the name of your Son, my Savior, I pray. Amen.

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God is still speaking,