

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Okabena, MN

Church of the Lutheran Confession

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Opening Hymn (tune of "All Praise to Thee, My God This Night")

When in the hour of deepest need We know not where to look for aid;
When days and nights of anxious thought
No help or counsel yet have brought.

Then is our comfort this alone That we may meet before Your throne;
To You, O faithful God, we cry For rescue in our misery.

For You have promised, Lord, to heed
Your children's cries in time of need
Through Him whose name alone is great, Our Savior and our Advocate.

And so we come, O God, today And all our woes before You lay;
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand, Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.

Responsive Reading Psalm 107:1, 23-31

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

C **For His steadfast love endures forever.**

P Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters.

C **They saw the deeds of the LORD, His wondrous works in the deep.**

P For He commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.

C **They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight.**

P They reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end.

C Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress.

P He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and He brought them to their desired haven.

C Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love, and for His wondrous works to the children of man!

O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.
Be with us in our anguish still; Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

P God created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways, I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. In times of trouble and sorrow, I have doubted Your love and care. I have put my needs ahead of the needs of others. I failed to look to You for help and hope. Forgive me for the sake of Jesus my Savior. Restore my hope and fill me with Your peace.

P Jesus offered His perfect life on the cross and suffered the full punishment for our sins. He rose from death to win forgiveness and eternal life for us. He overcomes all grief and pain according to His gracious will. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus we have peace and healing.

C Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Prayer of the Day

Response (tune of "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet")

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death, o'er darkness and the grave.

To You they came, the blind, the mute, the palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery, the sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
gave speech and strength and sight;
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed revealed You, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless, almighty as before,
In crowded street, by beds of pain, as by Genes'ret's shore.

O be our great Deliv'rer still, the Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless, with Your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see give wisdom's healing pow'r
That whole and sick and weak and strong may praise You evermore.

Peace in Forgiveness Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation, great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon; at Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy trusting now.

Peace in Weakness 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying all my need.

Peace in Jesus Mark 4:35-41 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How *is it* that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever and for all.

The Creed

Hymn 396 *Oh, for a Faith That Will Not Shrink*

Sermon Isaiah 40:1-2 Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

The War Really is Over...

Prayer *Each petition ends with the following response:*

P Christ our Hope,

C Speak Your word of peace into our hearts.

The Lord's Prayer

P Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

C Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

P Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

C Amen.

Hymn 370 *My Hope is Built On Nothing Less*

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