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**Lenten Midweek 5**

**St. John’s Passion**

“O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfector of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” *Gradual for Lent*

**AS WE GATHER**

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. Today, we focus on three scenes of the cross that strengthen our faith in Christ’s kindness for us. The cross is our King’s throne where His love takes away our sin and makes us the family of God.

**SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING** (*LSB*, pg. 260)

**Hymn** “What Wondrous Love Is This” (*LSB* 543)

**FIRST READING** Philippians 2:1-11

**Hymn** “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (*LSB* 525)

**SECOND READING** John 19:16b-27

**SERMON *“Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross”***

**Hymn** “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447, vs. 7-9)

**OFFERING**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: O Jesus, our King, by Holy Baptism into Your death we have been adopted as sons and daughters of God by grace. In Your kingly love You faithfully kept the ancient promise of the salvation of the whole world once again setting even the solitary in families. Fill us with wisdom and patience that we may live together in faith and love; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**Hymn** “Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow” (*LSB* 428)