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**5th Sunday**

**in Lent**

 “My song is love unknown,

my Savior’s love to me,

love to the loveless shown

that they might lovely be.

Oh, who am I

that for my sake

my Lord should take

frail flesh and die?” *LSB* 430:1

**AS WE GATHER**

The ancient name for today, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, is Judica, the Latin behind “vindicate” in the Introit. This Sunday prepares us for next Sunday’s review of the Passion. Only in Christ are we truly vindicated. But the emphasis is on our response to God’s love and forgiveness. In today’s Gospel, Jesus inverts the usual triangle of power into an upside-down pyramid of service. The greatest in God’s kingdom, the position sought by His disciples in the Gospel, is now at the bottom, serving everyone above. Jesus is describing Himself! In contrast to priests who repeatedly pray for others and offer sacrifices also for their own sins, Jesus was a one-time priest, offering Himself as the sacrifice while being sinless. In this new covenant, promised in the Reading from Jeremiah, we know of our Lord’s great love, now written in our hearts. From the inside out, our desire is to return Christ’s sacrificial, forgiving love by serving one another in His name.

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 203)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 204)

**HYMN** *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”* (*LSB* 435)

Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;

here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all,

in a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within;

from infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,

wash your robes and make them white; ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, impotent, and blind;

here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.

Health this fountain will restore; they that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever; ’tis a soul-renewing flood.

God is faithful; God will never break His covenant of blood,

signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when He was glorified.

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 205)

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 31:31-34 *(bulletin insert)*

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 5:1-10 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 10:32-45 *(bulletin insert)*

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 206)

**HYMN** *“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way”* (*LSB* 857)

Lord, help us walk Your servant way

wherever love may lead

and, bending low, forgetting self,

each serve the other’s need.

You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord,

but pow’r You laid aside.

You lived Your years in servanthood;

in lowliness You died.

No golden scepter but a towel

You place within the hands

of those who seek to follow You

and live by Your commands.

You bid us bend our human pride

nor count ourselves above

the lowest place, the meanest task

that waits the gift of love.

Lord, help us walk Your servant way

wherever love may lead

and, bending low, forgetting self,

each serve the other’s need.

**SERMON *“Appointed”***

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 208)

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 208-210)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Your Table I Approach”* (*LSB* 628)

Your table I approach; dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins and mourn their wretched bands;

a contrite heart is sure to find forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, once slain and shed for me,

are taken at Your table, Lord, in blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, this wondrous mystery;

God can accomplish vastly more than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessèd Lord, that earth and hell combined

may not about this sacrament raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail to thank You day and night

for Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

**NUNC DIMITTIS** *“Song of Simeon”*(*LSB*, pg. 211)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*LSB*, pg. 212)

### BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION (LSB, pg. 212

**HYMN** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* (*LSB* 700)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav’n, to earth come down!

Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;

visit us with Thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev’ry troubled breast;

let us all in Thee inherit; let us find Thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all Thy life receive;

suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,

pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;

let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee,

changed from glory into glory, till in heav’n we take our place,

till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**