



**Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 21, 2021  
Morning Prayer**

**Thanksgiving for the Word: Lent**

Gracious God, who has named and claimed us, calling us your beloved children, you know the secrets of our hearts. When we sin and stray from your paths, you astound us with your saving grace.

For this Word of life,  
**we give you thanks.**

Loving Jesus, living Word, in you the Kingdom of God has come near; through you all that was lost has been found. Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead, trusting your promise that we need not fear, for you are with us.

For this Word of life,  
**we give you thanks.**

Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell, into our scarcity, your abundance flows. Enliven all communities with your good news. Guide us to love and serve Jesus, giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.

For this Word of life,  
**we give you thanks.**

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY**

O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.**

**PSALMODY**

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.  
**Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.  
**In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.  
**O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.  
**O that today you would listen to his voice!**

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.  
**Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

SONG – Hail, thou once despised Jesus

Hymnal 495



1 Hail, thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, thou Gal - i -  
 2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on  
 3 Je - sus, hail! en - throned in glo - ry, there for ev - er  
 \*4 Wor - ship, hon - or, power, and bless - ing thou art wor - thy



le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us;  
 thee were laid: by al - might - y love a - noint - ed,  
 to a - bide; all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore thee,  
 to re - ceive; high - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing,



thou didst free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, thou u - ni - ver - sal  
 thou hast full a - tone - ment made. All thy peo - ple are for -  
 seat - ed at thy Fa - ther's side. There for sin - ners thou art  
 right it is for us to give. Help, ye bright an - gel - ic



Sa - vior, bear - er of our sin and shame! By thy mer - it  
 giv - en through the vir - tue of thy blood: o - pened is the  
 plead - ing: there thou dost our place pre - pare; ev - er for us  
 spi - rits, all your no - blest an - thems raise; help to sing our



we find fa - vor: life is giv - en through thy Name  
 gate of hea - ven, re - con - ciled are we with God.  
 in - ter - ced - ing, till in glo - ry we ap - pear.  
 Sa - vior's mer - its, help to chant Em - man - uel's praise!

Words: John Bakewell (1721-1819) and Martin Madan (1726-1790); alt. Music: In *Robilanz*, melody from *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Rezenanties en*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**READINGS**

**First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

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

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10**

*Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.*

<sup>5</sup>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”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In 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.

<sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

## **Gospel: John 12:20-33**

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very 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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**SERMON** – The Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to  
 3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that  
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my  
 is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
 he has come to his people and set them free.  
 He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
 born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old  
 that he would save us from our enemies,  
 from the hands of all who hate us.  
 He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
 and to remember his holy covenant.  
 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
 free to worship him without fear,  
 holy and righteous in his sight  
 all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

## **PRAYERS**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.*

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

- for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .
- for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .
- for the gifts of relationship with others . . .
- for the communion of faith in your church . . .

*Other thanksgivings may be added.*

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

- for those who govern nations of the world . . .
- for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .
- for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .
- for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .
- for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

*Other intercessions may be added.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

Almighty God bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn (next page)**

Song – *When I survey the wondrous cross*

Hymnal 474

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

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