

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
The Stone the Builders Rejected
April 2 & 3, 2022

AS WE GATHER

With the promise of mercy comes the warning of judgment. That is the message we have heard throughout this season of Lent. In the parable Jesus spoke, the mercy of God is lavish and entirely too generous to be reasonable. God is relentless in His pursuit of us, but those who reject His mercy are condemned to stand alone before the judgment seat. The promise and a warning go together and will always go together until the saving work of God is complete and we live in His presence on high forevermore.



PRAYER

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake.

+ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** +

OPENING HYMN LSB 644 *“THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION”* *sts. 1–5*

- 1 The Church’s one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

- 2 Elect from ev’ry nation,
Yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev’ry grace endued.

- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, “How long?”

And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.
Text: Public domain

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P Jesus Christ forgives you all your sins.

C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 3:3–6; antiphon: v. 8*

- P Salvation belongs to the LORD;
your blessing be on your people!
- C **But you, O LORD, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.**
- P I cried aloud to the LORD,
and he answered me from his holy hill.
- C **I lay down and slept;
I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.**
- P I will not be afraid of many thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around.
- C **Glory be 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.**
- P Salvation belongs to the LORD;
your blessing be on your people!

KYRIE *LSB 152*

- A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity
of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the
Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray.
Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be
governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 43:16–21*

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings forth chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸“Remember not the former things,
 nor consider the things of old.
¹⁹Behold, I am doing a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰The wild beasts will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
 ²¹the people whom I formed for myself
that they might declare my praise.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 126; antiphon: v. 3*

P ¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
 we were like those who dream.

C ²**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
 “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

P ³The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

C ⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
 like streams in the Negeb!**

P ⁵Those who sow in tears
 shall reap with shouts of joy!

C ⁶**He who goes out weeping,
 bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
 bringing his sheaves with him.**

EPISTLE *Philippians 3:8–14*

⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE (LENT) *LSB 157*

C **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 20:9–20*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁹[Jesus] began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹²And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ ¹⁴But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ ¹⁵And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” ¹⁷But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone’?

¹⁸Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

¹⁹The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. ²⁰So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 430 “MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN”

- 1 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?
- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!”
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And ’gainst Him rise.
- 5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff’ring goes

That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683
Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

SERMON *“What the Resurrection is Worth”* *Philippians 3:8–14*

Introduction:

What is it worth to stand before Christ on the day of the resurrection and be welcomed into His presence forever?

I. Willing to suffer loss.

Paul makes it quite clear. He was willing to suffer all and the loss of all just to know Christ and be a part of the resurrection to life everlasting. And Paul did.

He suffered the loss of health, wealth and a good life. He was beaten, starved, imprisoned, and almost drowned in a shipwreck. He had nothing to his name.

Yet, he considered all these things as nothing in comparison to what he had in Christ Jesus.

Paul had a lot going for him. He was a Pharisee. He was highly educated in the Law of God. He was well disciplined in practicing and observing the Jewish traditions. He was a good and moral person according to the law. He was zealous for the Lord. If anyone could get to heaven and be present on the day of the resurrection it would have been him.

But he considered this all a loss. All the credit that he thought he had gain in the sight of God was only worth throwing away. It was worth more to him to know that Christ had died and rose again. And this is what would get him to the resurrection. It was nothing that he did. It was not all the time he put in. It was not all the effort to practice the laws handed down through Moses. It was all that Christ had done that would bring him to day of the resurrection. He would consider his past as rubbish and something to be thrown away. He wouldn't even mention it before God. He wouldn't even want God to consider his past in pronouncing him righteous. This is what it was worth to Paul to know Christ through faith. All his works were rubbished and not even suitable to be presented in the presence of Christ.

Imagine being able to say, "All that I have done for others; all the work that I have put into caring for a family, all the thankless hours I have put in in service to other I consider as rubbish compare to knowing Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior." This is how important that faith in Christ dying for our sins and rising for our salvation is.

II. Pressing on toward the goal

Paul was willing to suffer all in order to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the message of forgiveness and salvation. It has the power to save the souls of others. It was the power that saved Paul from the wrath of God which he truly understood that he deserved. It was that precious gift that Paul wanted never to loose. So, he pressed on as if it was something that was attainable by his actions.

He pursued it like an athletic pursues the championship. He pursued it as if it was a goal that he could attain though he knew it was already his in Christ.

So, it is in our lives. As the day of the resurrection approaches, it becomes more important to us. As the things of this world fails and falls away, the hope of the resurrection becomes even more precious. As health, wealth, fame and glory fade on earth the precious gift of our faith in Christ is clung to tighter and tighter.

For we know and believe that nothing on earth can compare to glory that is ours in Christ. We go to Christ asking that He increase within us a deeper desire to rise and live in His presence. We repent when earthly wealth, fame and glory are more important to us than being in Christ. We ask for forgiveness when we present our lives and works as if they require God to count it as righteousness.

The gift that we have in Christ through faith in Him is of much more worth than what this life and world can offer. God grant that it remains the most precious thing in our life.

Conclusion:

Paul made it clear why he gave up his past life and all that he had accomplished in order to know Christ Jesus. He made it clear why he was willing to suffer all that he suffered in order to proclaim Jesus as the Christ. He made it clear why he continued to preach and teach in spite of the violent opposition that He face. He made it clear. It is only through Christ that we have the hope to stand before and in the presence of God the Father for all eternity on the day of the resurrection. And this is most certainly true.

T AMEN T

PRAYER

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

NICENE CREED

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Come, let us offer to the Lord the prayers of our heart, trusting in His mercy to supply all things needful for this body and life and for eternal life.

Give to us grace, heavenly Father, that we not reject Christ the cornerstone but build on Him our hopes of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give to us grace, heavenly Father, that we hear the voice of Your Word, heed the call of the prophets, and faithfully proclaim this Gospel to all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give to us grace, heavenly Father, that all our leaders guide us according to Your Word in the cause of justice and for the provision of the common good. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give to us grace, heavenly Father, that we repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ our Savior, and show forth in our lives the good works You desire. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give to us grace, heavenly Father, that we find refuge in Your healing wounds. [*Hear us especially for . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give to us grace, heavenly Father, that we acknowledge Your goodness and use well all the resources You have supplied us so that Your name be glorified. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions may be inserted here.

P Give us grace, heavenly Father, to confess You before the world and at the last to rest our hope upon the promise of the resurrection when we shall dwell together with all the saints, in light and life forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING HYMN LSB 730 “*WHAT IS THE WORLD TO ME*” *sts. 1, 4*

1 What is the world to me
With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone,
Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord,
My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest.
What is the world to me!

4 What is the world to me!
My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth,
My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all,
My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

OFFERTORY *LSB 159*

**C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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.**

HYMN LSB 425 “*WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS*”

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

LSB 576 “*MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS*”

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain
- ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.
- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain
- 3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain
- 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Text: Public domain

HYMN LSB 571 “*GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE*”

- 1 God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus’ blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.
- D 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

NUNC DIMITTIS *LSB 165*

- C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev’ry
people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be 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.**

BENEDICTION *LSB 166*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C Amen.**

HYMN OF DEPARTURE LSB 912 “CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE”

- 1 Christ is our cornerstone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heav’n are filled.
On His great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.
- 2 Here may we gain from heav’n
The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv’n,
Be with us evermore
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.
- D 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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