

*Fifth Sunday
in Lent*

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Love Together



If you are a visitor with us today, we welcome you in the name of Christ.
We encourage our guests to join us in the communion meal because Jesus welcomes all to his table of grace, uniting and filling us for love and service. Christ is our host and our food, bearing to us God's forgiveness and grace through this harvest of field and vineyard.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 21, 2021

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*You may respond with the parts printed in **bold print**.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

In the gospel of John, a group of Greek people approach the disciples and say, "We would like to see Jesus." It's a brief moment and yet maybe calls our attention today. May this also be our prayer: "Help me see Jesus. I'd like to see Jesus. Bring me closer to Jesus."

Let us recognize and confess how much space exists between us and those words, trusting that even when we forget to seek out God, God is seeking us out.

Silence for reflection

Gracious God,

We want to see you. We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus; but not only that, we want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts. Why do we feel so far away from that at times? What went wrong? Where did we lose our way? Could you, would you, once again, write on our fragile hearts? We would look to you for help. Amen.

Friends, despite our wonderings, despite our distractions, despite wrong turns time and time again, we are known and loved by God. Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea, God will never stop waving us home. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator. Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator. Our tender spirits are forgiven by the Great Creator.

Today is a new day.

Again and again, we are forgiven; again and again, we are reformed. Thanks be to God. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

#660 vs. 1, 3, & 4

Refrain

- Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to
thee. *Refrain*
- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our
captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of
God. *Refrain*
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!
Refrain

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God,

All: 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.

KYRIE

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: B Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord. . . . have mer - cy:

A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: B Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ. . . . have mer - cy:

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: B Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord. . . . have mer - cy:

WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

Pastor Clark Brown

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.

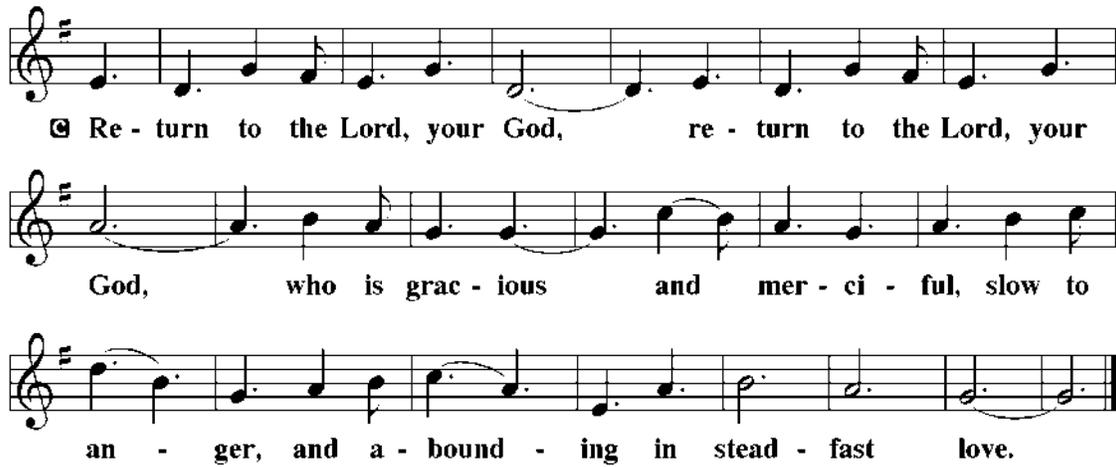
AM: A reading from Jeremiah.

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

AM: Word of God, word of life. All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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.

Pastor: The holy gospel according to John. **All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will

honor.

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

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Clark Brown

HYMN OF THE DAY

Seed That In Earth Is Dying

#330

- 1 Seed that in earth is dying
grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel
turn into golden wine.
God, through this mystery grant us
faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death.
- 2 We were baptized in Jesus,
into his death and grave,
to resurrection's promise:
praise and eternal life.

- Heaven's own praises begin here
where you yourself are near us,
deep in our night and death.
- 3 Seed that in earth is dying
rises to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table,
give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you!
Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that flowers need the rain.
We believe that humans need community.
We believe that bodies need rest.
We believe that hearts need connection.
We believe that mornings need sunrise.
We believe that seasons need change.
We believe that grief needs space.
We believe that change needs time.
We believe that love needs security.
We believe that pain needs art.
We believe that joy needs company.
We believe that our spirits need God.
Again and again, our spirits need God.
Fortunately for us, we trust that God is here.
God is at work in our lives.
God is a lighthouse keeper that never gives up.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding to each petition with **“Your mercy is great.”**

You wash us again and again and remember our sin no more. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You fill the earth with your presence and call to us from creation. We pray for weather that nourishes the earth and your Spirit to guide our stewardship of it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Shape us to reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of your presence to all in need, especially Michael, Ed, Stacey, Grace, Glenda, Sandy, David, Colbie, Dawn, Grant, the families and friends of Shelley Grace, Brenda Putz, and Philip Caniglia, and those that we now name silently or aloud... (pause). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower and equip children and adults to live lives of loving service. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

You are welcome to share the peace using the comment section on YouTube or with anyone sheltering in peace with you.

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

Let us remember to offer ourselves—our time, our abilities, our possessions—for the ongoing ministry of St. Timothy and the wider church. You may continue to send in your offering by postal mail or use our online giving option at www.sttim.org.

Create in Me

#185

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Faithful God,

All: you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Every time we come to this meal we hear:

All: “Here I am. Use me.”

Pastor: And we are again filled so we may say :

All: “Here I am. Use me.”

Pastor: We come to this place to be changed.

All: Again and again, make us new.

Pastor: Praise to you... ..now and forever.

All: Amen

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

or **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;**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

**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**

Pastor: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

*As we share communion in our homes, we remember that we are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, sharing in communion with the saints of every time and place. We receive the body and blood of Christ and share in the life of God as we accept the bread and wine or grape juice, and hear the words: “**The body of Christ given for you**” and “**the blood of Christ shed for you.**”*

COMMUNION SONG

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

#735

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev'ry breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun. | 3 | grain of life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.
Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flow'r, until I know. |
| 2 | Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light, | | |

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen

SENDING SONG

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

#759 vs. 1, 2, & 4

1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!

2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,

oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister:

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Presiding Minister—Pastor Clark Brown

Assisting Minister—Nancy Opsata

Musician—Desma Johnson

Cantor—Jon Gerdes

Altar Care—Susan Smith

Audio—Jim Helgason

Streaming Video—Jody Emerson

Upcoming Commemorations

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

Monday, March 22, 2021

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Gospel Message

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

Life Not Thwarted by Death

On Ash Wednesday we put ashes on our heads, allowing our truth to be exposed: we are mortal; we are dust. We spoke a confession, and more and more truth bubbled up, truth that so often is suppressed: we are broken; we have fallen short; we are implicated in the muck of systemic sin. On Ash Wednesday we agreed: we are done putting on airs.

Jesus has never been one for putting on airs, and so today we find him living the consequence of a truthful, authentic life. He has raised Lazarus from the dead, he has attracted a following, and the religious authorities are afraid for themselves and their people living under Roman occupation that Jesus is about to bring Rome down upon their heads. They are actively seeking to silence Jesus for the sake of the nation.

We meet Jesus today facing down the choice either to bury his truth in order to stay safe or to let the truth of his life be known and therefore risk being buried. Jesus chooses to let his truth and his light shine, knowing he will be buried for it. Despite the way it troubles his soul, he is clear that this is what he has come to do. Like the wheat seed that dies to create life in a new stalk of grain, Jesus' life will not be thwarted by the threat of death.

When you were baptized, you were baptized into Christ's life; the seed of your life was buried in Christ. When you dine at Christ's table, you take his life into your own. His fearless, free, unearthed, burgeoning life is yours. You are free, O church, from the work of appeasing others, of contorting yourself to stay safe, of quieting your unique and therefore potent voice, of finding creative ways to hide the light that is in you. Your life will not be thwarted by death. So, live.

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember in your prayers:

The family and friends of Shelley Grace, Barbara Grace's daughter-in-law.
The family and friends of Brenda Putz, the mother of T. J. Racoosin.
Michael Grace, Barbara Grace's son, has ME/CFS pray he regains his strength.
Ed Olson, undergoing cancer treatment .
Stacey Himenes, undergoing cancer treatment.
Grace Cinke, a friend of Lynn Wagner, who has Covid 19.
Glenda Tankersley, Ia Bolter's niece, in a nursing home on dialysis.
The family of Philip Caniglia, father of Steve Solomon's friend Phyllis.
Sandy Hoskin, undergoing cancer treatment again.
David Holland, husband of Dee Holland and brother of Lucille Pires, undergoing chemo therapy for prostate and bone cancer.
Colbie Schueneman, grandniece of Adrian, 17^{1/2} months old diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disease.
Dawn Stallings, daughter of Dolores, who has suffered a stroke.
Grant Hobson, grandnephew of Matt Schulz, being treated for leukemia, and his parents Claire and Luke.
Healthcare workers on the front line of the pandemic and essential workers facing daily risk of disease.
All service members, fire fighters, and police officers (and their families).
For those living in war-torn regions and all refugees.
For the mission of this congregation, the Monterey Bay Conference, and the entire Sierra Pacific Synod, and for our leaders and for the leaders throughout the world.

Please continue to pray for the ongoing concerns of these listed here.

Torie Hamilton
Rodger Marty
Bonnie Bennett
Jim McMullins
Bill Reynolds
Mary Lee Slater
Marjonie Gabriel
Tom Brown
Aaron Grieg

Byron Heppert
Jacqueline Graham
Gloria Llenaresas
Riley Ann Holland
Ronnie Lyons
Irene McCloud
Thomas Ansley
Jackie Rullman
Linda Henderson

Beverly Schneideman
Justice Gaudoin
Peter Kracht
Isabella Silva
Randy Hoch
Don Butler
Mark Northcutt
Helen Leikam

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E-mail: office@sttim.org

Sharing God's Love Together

March 21, 2021

Notes and announcements

- **We will have outdoor worship services on March 28 (Palm and Passion Sunday) and April 4 (Easter Sunday).** Please notify the office at (831)375-2042 or office@sttim.org if you plan to attend and how many will be coming from your household.
- **As we are now live-streaming worship,** we can also accommodate a few people in the sanctuary each week, keeping well below the current guidelines of 25% capacity and maintaining safety protocols. With this limited space, we ask you to call or email the church office (831)375-2042 or office@sttim.org to let us know which Sundays you would like to attend and how are in your household.
- Please submit articles for the **April Epistle** by Tuesday morning, March 23.
- **Study, pray, and discuss during the week:** Join Pastors Clark and Tony: Wednesday 2 PM **Bible Study**, **Holden Evening Prayer** on Wednesday at 6:30 PM, and Sunday 11:15 AM **Pastors' Forum** and **Compline with Father Jon**, Sunday at 8 PM. Email Pastor Clark for info: pastorclark@sttim.org.
- **Online Worship:** All Sunday services online on sttim.org.
- **Social Hour:** We have a social hour on Zoom Sunday at 10:45 am. Information for worship and the social hour will be emailed each week. **If you want to be on our email list or have questions,** email/call/text Pastor Clark at pastorclark@sttim.org or 831-521-1818.
- **Preparing for communion.** Our online Sunday worship will include communion. As you feel called, prepare to share in communion by setting aside some bread or crackers, and some wine or juice, as you have them available. If you need any of these items, please contact Ida Barber.
- **Prayer Concerns:** Please call Dorothy Kirk with any new or changed prayer concerns at 375-1043.
- **Offering:** Please remember your offerings to St. Timothy. Offering can be mailed to the church office, sent automatically using your bank, or online by visiting our website www.sttim.org.