

ENTRANCE HYMN #109 *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r.
Your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgement hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame or loss; Learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb, There, adoring at his feet.
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay.
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

INSTRUCTION

L: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil -- all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we are called at baptism. Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. Now let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of this holy day reconciled with God and with one another.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Let us make confession to God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Jesus, our Savior and Lord, at his last meal with his disciples gave them, and us, that new commandment: "... love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34,35 NRSV) Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak ... when we have failed to serve as Jesus served;

C: forgive us.

L: When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us;

C: forgive us.

L: When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips and then denied him by our actions;

C: forgive us.

L: When we have given in to the fears and despair of the world around us, and failed to be your light in this world...

C: forgive us.

L: When we have been ungrateful, unkind, and unfaithful in our attitudes, words, and worship...

C: forgive us.

L: Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world "(John 12:47b) and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (John 13: 1b). The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray, God of promise,

C: you made a covenant with your people in Israel, which you renewed at Jesus' last supper. Renew your covenant with us daily, so that we might learn to live in your light and peace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:

²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35 ¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table,

took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #385 *What Wondrous Love is This?*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul.
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb I will sing, Who is the great I Am.
While millions join the theme, I will sing. I will sing.
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And through eternity I'll sing on.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in our Lenten journey, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING 5TH GRADERS WHO ARE CELEBRATING THEIR FIRST COMMUNION TONIGHT:

Sam Grundahl

Connor Heitin

Claire Hurda

Mara Parks

Vanessa Rameker

Josie Sailor

Skylar Schulenberg

Carter Vesely

Addie Zwolanek



L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this Sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

SONG *The Old Rugged Cross*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

**REFRAIN so I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it some day for a crown.**

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary. **REFRAIN**

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me. **REFRAIN**

To the old rugged cross, I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away where his glory forever I'll share. **REFRAIN**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR -- Telling of the Passion Story