



*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our
Savior Jesus Christ.”*

2 Peter 3:18

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Confirmation Sunday

April 2, 2017



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service today we gather before our heavenly Father to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. May he bless our worship and study today!

For Your Convenience

- Restrooms are available down the hallway on the right.
- If you would like a hearing device to assist you for worship, please speak with one of the ushers.
- The ushers are at the entrance of the sanctuary to answer any other questions you might have.

Today's Focus

Jesus will raise us from death to life. The crown jewel of the coming kingdom is the resurrection of the dead. One day, Jesus will defeat the last enemy (1 Corinthians 15:27) and life will reign again in our new Eden with God. On our Lenten walk to Calvary, the Church sees the Savior come face to face with death and defeat it completely. During our Lenten walk, the Prayer of the Day asks God to help us remember that Jesus, who is resurrection and life, has made us heirs of eternal life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OPENING HYMN

To God Be the Glory
Christian Worship Hymn 399

To God be the glory; great things he has done!
He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory—great things he has done!

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. ***Refrain***

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see. ***Refrain***

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, alt.

INVOCATION

L: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

L: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

**C: Be merciful, O Lord, we have sinned, we have sinned!
Be merciful, O Lord, we have sinned!**

**Be merciful, O Christ, we have sinned, we have sinned!
Be merciful, O Christ, we have sinned!**

**Be merciful, O Lord, we have sinned, we have sinned!
Be merciful, O Lord, we have sinned!**

ABSOLUTION OF SINS

L: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

L: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or bar lines.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’ ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’” ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.” (NIV 1984)

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 116

Christian Worship page 107

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

The LORD is gracious and righteous; when I was in great need, he saved me.

For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:11-19

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

¹² Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. (NIV 1984)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Mark 10:45

L: The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

GOSPEL

John 11:17-27, 38-45

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. (NIV 1984)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd
Christian Worship Hymn 508

Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd, Children all are dear to you;
May your loving arms enfold them In your care their whole life through.
Gently tend and safely keep them In your mercy strong and true.

Tender Shepherd, never leave them, Never let them go astray;
By your warning love directed, May they walk the narrow way.
Thus direct them, thus defend them Lest they fall an easy prey.

By your holy Word instruct them; Fill their minds with heav'nly light.
By your pow'rful grace convince them Always to approve what's right.
Let them feel your yoke is easy; Let them find your burden light.

Taught to love the holy praises Which on earth your children sing,
With their lips and hearts, sincerely, Glad thankoff'rings may they bring,
Then with all the saints in glory Join to praise their Lord and King.

Text: Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, abr., adapt., alt.

CONFIRMATION EXAMINATION

*Valerie Epps, Lisa Oommen, and McKenzie Sevier will be examined
according to the teachings of God's Word and Tree of Life Lutheran Church.*

WOMEN'S CHOIR

Christ Is with Me

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION



EMMA VALERIE EPPS

Proverbs 3:5,6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.” (NIV 1984)

ELIZABETH OOMMEN

John 8:12

“I am the Light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.” (NIV 1984)

MCKENZIE MARIE SEVIER

Psalm 27:1

“The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” (NIV 1984)

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

THE PREFACE

L: May God, the Lord be with you.



C: May he be with you, too.

L: We lift our hearts in pra-ise,



C: To You, Lord God, to you.

L: We thank you, heav'nly Father, our good and gracious Lord.



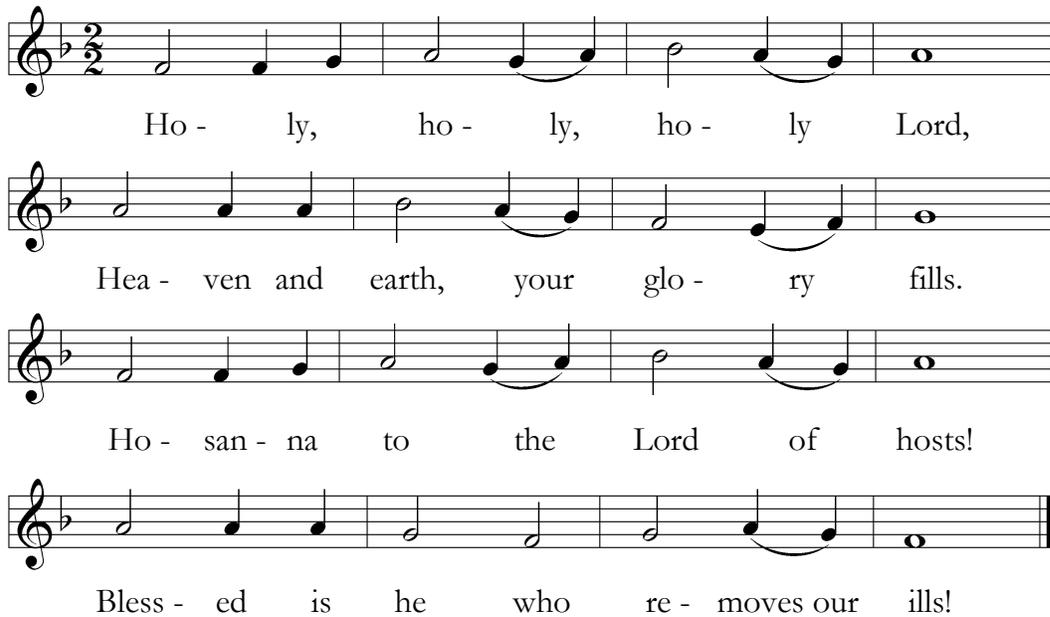
C: To glor - i - fy and praise you is pro - per right and good.

L: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of

the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Hea - ven and earth, your glo - ry fills.
Ho - san - na to the Lord of hosts!
Bless - ed is he who re - moves our ills!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

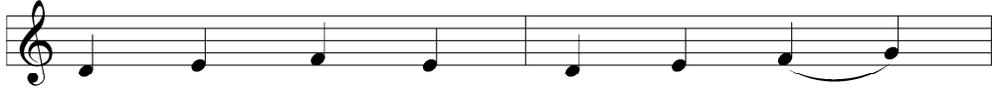
The Lamb (*Agnus Dei*)
Christian Worship Supplement Hymn 714; st 2



The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal

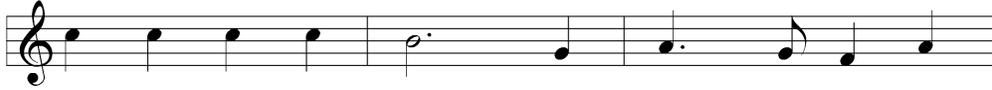


of - fer - ing. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let



earth join heav'n his praise to sing.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper is a blessing from God through which he strengthens our faith.

It is also an expression of our faith.

If we have not had the opportunity to talk to you about our beliefs, we ask that you wait before you join us for the Lord's Supper.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

L: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Shepherd of Tender Youth
Christian Worship Hymn 515

Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth Through devious ways,
Christ, our triumphant King, We come your name to sing
And here our children bring To join your praise.

You are our holy Lord, Christ, the incarnate Word, Healer of strife.
You did yourself abase That from sin's deep disgrace
You might thus save our race And give us life.

You are our great High Priest; You have prepared the feast Of holy love;
And in our mortal pain None calls on you in vain;
Our plea do not disdain: Help from above!

Oh, ever be our guide, Our shepherd and our pride, Our staff and song.
Jesus, O Christ of God, By your enduring Word
Lead us where you have trod; Make our faith strong.

So now and till we die Sound we your praises high And joyful sing;
Infants and all the throng Who to your Church belong
Unite to swell the song To Christ, our King.

Welcome to Tree of Life!

The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net). As congregation of this synod, we strive to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people. We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)**
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell:
"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that:
"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper:
"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)**
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior:
"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)