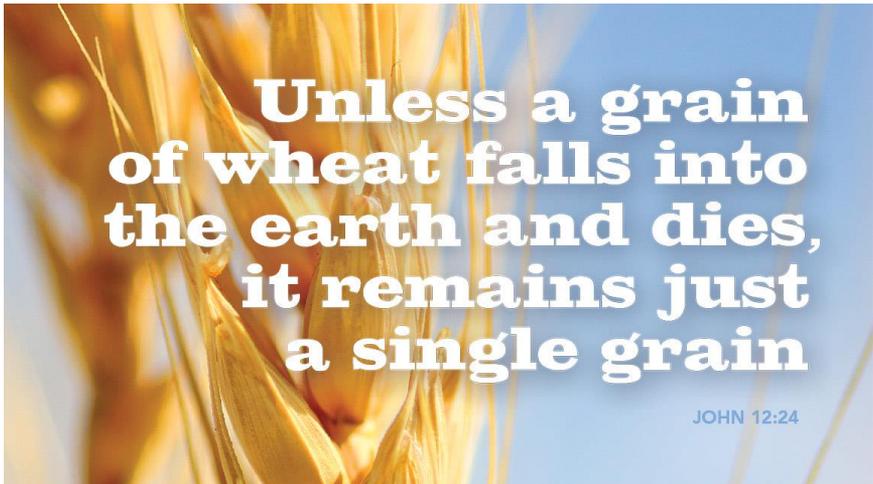


Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

945 W. Round Bunch Rd., Bridge City, TX 77611

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**Unless a grain
of wheat falls into
the earth and dies,
it remains just
a single grain**

JOHN 12:24

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

PRELUDE

Variations on *Truro*

- Edwin T. Childs

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand if you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water, pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood.

Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✚ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN “Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”
ELW 516

GREETING

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

GATHERING SONG “Now is the Time of Grace”

All worshipers are invited to sing the refrain; the choir will sing the verses.

Refrain

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal -
va - tion. Turn now, and seek God's face,
now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a first ending bracket over the first two measures, and a second ending bracket over the last two measures. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*This is the fast that God would choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the captives go free, and to break the yoke of oppression. **Refrain***

*Sharing your bread with the hungry and welcoming homeless in, offering hope and offering help, this is what God requires. **Refrain***

*Then shall your light break forth as dawn, and healing shall come to you quickly, then you shall call and God shall answer, God's love shall go before you. **Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

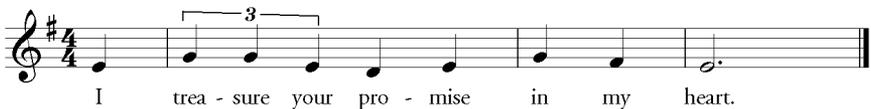
Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 119

Worshipers are invited to sing the refrain as indicated below. The choir will chant the psalm text.



I trea - sure your pro - mise in my heart.

How shall a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commandments. I treasure

your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you. Blest are you O Lord; instruct me in your statutes. Refrain

With my lips will I recite all the judgments of your mouth. I have taken great delight in the way of your decrees, than in all manner of riches. I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways. My delight tis in your statutes; I will not forget your word. Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ 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”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

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

⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All worshippers are invited to sing the refrain; the choir will sing the verse.



Glo-ry and praise to you, O Lord, Je-sus Christ, Lord Je-sus Christ.

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

The gospel according to John. **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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Word of God is Source and Seed”
tune, *Truro*



The Word of God is source and seed;
it comes to die and sprout and grow.
So make your dark earth welcome warm;
root deep the grain God bent to sow.

The Word of God is breath and life;
it comes to heal and wake and save.
So let the Spirit touch and mend
and rouse your dry bones from their grave.

The Word of God is flesh and grace,
who comes to sing, to laugh and cry.
So dare to be as Jesus was,
who came to live and love and die.

THE NICENE CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the 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 truly 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity 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 all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. 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.**

Please be seated.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

ANTHEM “Seed That in Earth is Dying” - Harald Herresthal
arr. Bradley Ellingboe

OFFERING PRAYER *Those who are able shall stand.*

Let us pray. Faithful God, 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 and Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

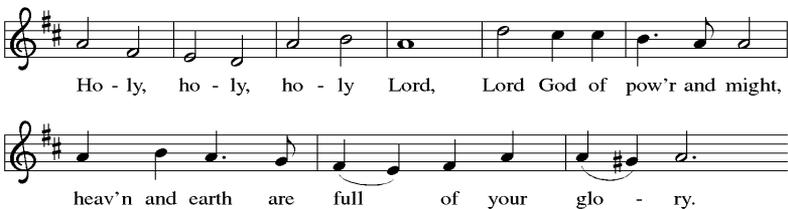
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW S153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW S154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

“Break Bread Together”

- Timothy Shaw

Please stand

COMMUNION PRAYER

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 and Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN "O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"
ELW 772

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"A Verse"

- John Blow

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