

Zion Lutheran Church The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
413 Avenue D East, Bismarck, North Dakota  
Website: [zionbismarck.org](http://zionbismarck.org)  
Email: [zionlcmsbis@gmail.com](mailto:zionlcmsbis@gmail.com)  
(701) 223-8286  
Find us on Facebook, search: *Zion Lutheran Church*  
The Rev. Thomas R. Marcis Jr. – Senior Pastor  
Ben Ramthun – Vicar  
Kristin Nistler – Director of Family Ministry

Liturgy: Pastor Marcis  
Sermon: Vicar Ramthun  
Organist: Evelyn Orth

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Greatness Upside-Down  
March 21, 2021 - 10:45 AM



### AS WE GATHER

The ancient name for today, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, is Judica, the Latin behind “vindicate” in the Introit. This Sunday prepares us for next Sunday’s review of the Passion. Only in Christ are we truly vindicated. But the emphasis is on our response to God’s love and forgiveness. In today’s Gospel, Jesus inverts the usual triangle of power into an upside-down pyramid of service. The greatest in God’s kingdom, the position sought by His disciples in the Gospel, is now at the bottom, serving everyone above. Jesus is describing Himself! In contrast to priests who repeatedly pray for others and offer sacrifices also for their own sins, Jesus was a one-time priest, offering Himself as the sacrifice while being sinless. In this new covenant, promised in the Reading from Jeremiah, we know of our Lord’s great love, now written in our hearts. From the inside out, our desire is to return Christ’s sacrificial, forgiving love by serving one another in His name.

### ✘ PREPARATION ✘

#### HYMN

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” *LSB* 435

- 1 **Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain,  
Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain  
Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide,  
Opened when our Savior died.**
- 2 **Come in poverty and meanness,  
Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness,  
From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
Ye shall walk with God in light.**
- 3 **Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.**
- 4 **They that drink shall live forever;  
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never  
Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died,  
Sealed when He was glorified.**

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Jeremiah 31:31, 33; Mark 10:43–44*

Pastor: The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant.

People: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.**

Pastor: And I will be their God,

People: **and they shall be My people.**

Pastor: Whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

People: **and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 5:9*

Pastor: Bearing our sins and in need of a Savior, let us go to our heavenly Father, asking for forgiveness.

*Time for reflection on the word of God and for personal examination.*

Pastor: Most merciful, heavenly Father, You promised a covenant written on Your people's hearts.

People: **But we do not always rely on Your promises and great love. We are sorry.**

Pastor: Gracious Holy Spirit, through Your use of Word and Sacrament, many people know the Lord.

People: **But we have not taken advantage of every opportunity to share Your Word with others. We are sorry.**

Pastor: Jesus taught that the greatest in the Kingdom is the servant of all.

People: **But our hearts have not always been humble and eager for service. We are sorry. Our thoughts, words, and deeds fall short. As fallen sinners, we are helpless to change. For Jesus' sake, forgive us, and give us new and clean hearts to love You and serve our neighbors.**

Pastor: God promised in the new covenant, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." In the sacrifice of Himself, Jesus, being perfect, "became the source of eternal salvation." As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

## KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace in our hearts, knowing that salvation is sure, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace among the nations and the growth of the Church in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Church here and wherever God's people gather for praise and worship, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people

**People: that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Jeremiah 31:31–34*

(A new covenant is coming, written on people's hearts.)

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares 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. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL

*Hebrews 12:2*

Pastor: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**People: the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

Pastor: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

**People: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## EPISTLE

*Hebrews 5:1–10*

(Jesus was both one-time priest and sacrifice, dying for all.)

Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE

*Mark 10:45*

**People: Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(Jesus teaches about true greatness.)

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN**

"My Song Is Love Unknown" *LSB* 430

- 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!

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## SERMON

"The Writing on Our Hearts"  
Jeremiah 31:31-34

## HYMN

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" *LSB* 440

1 Jesus, I will ponder now  
On Your holy passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow  
For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
May the image cherish  
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death  
That I may not perish.

2 Make me see Your great distress,  
Anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness  
And Your crucifixion;  
Make me see how scourge and rod,  
Spear and nails did wound You,  
How for them You died, O God,  
Who with thorns had crowned You.

3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone  
Make me see Your passion,  
But its cause to me make known  
And its termination.  
Ah! I also and my sin  
Wrought Your deep affliction;  
This indeed the cause has been  
Of Your crucifixion.

4 Grant that I Your passion view  
With repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to You  
By unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun  
Ev'ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God's only Son  
Suffered without measure?

5 If my sins give me alarm  
And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm;  
Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won  
By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son,  
God must have compassion!

6 Graciously my faith renew;  
Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from You,  
Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give You love for love!  
Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above  
Sing Your praise forever.

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### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,  
People: hear our prayer.

### **OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

“Father, We Thank Thee” LSB 652

- 1 Father, we thank Thee who hast planted  
Thy holy name within our hearts.  
Knowledge and faith and life immortal  
Jesus, Thy Son, to us imparts.  
Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,  
Didst give us food for all our days,  
Giving in Christ the Bread eternal;  
Thine is the pow’r, be Thine the praise.
- 2 Watch o’er Thy Church, O Lord, in mercy,  
Save it from evil, guard it still,  
Perfect it in Thy love, unite it,  
Cleansed and conformed unto Thy will.  
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,  
Was in this broken bread made one,  
So from all lands Thy Church be gathered  
Into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.

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## LORD’S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The blessings of God—the Father, who loved us so much that He gave His only Son for us; the Son, who became one of us to die for us; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in us that we might be active in love—be with you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God!

## HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” LSB 700

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter ev’ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into ev’ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

**3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**4 Finish then Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

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