

The Service for the Lord's Day

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Welcome! We are glad that you are here. We hope that you are blessed by your encounter with God today.

The * indicates points in the service where you are invited to stand, if that is comfortable for you.

However, if it is better for you to remain seated, feel free to do so.

All are invited to join in speaking or singing when **Bolded** words appear.

March 18, 2018

The service begins with the music of preparation.

9:30 am

Gathering the Community of Faith

Prelude

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Larry Shackley

Margaret Sheneman, flute

Call to Worship (*from Psalm 107*)

In truth and love, God has called us into this house of worship. God has said to us,

"You are my people, I am your God."

Not once, but again and again the Word is spoken, and there is rejoicing over all the earth.

The words ring out with a glad cry:

"You are my people, I am your God. You are my people, close to my heart."

Come, O people of God; let us be glad as we sing God's praises; for our Creator and

Redeemer has said:

"You are my people, I am your God. You are my people, close to my heart."

With awe and wonder, in the spirit of grace we worship God.

*Hymn 662

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God of forgiveness, we ask for new life as we confess our old ways. We hear of your promises but doubt that we are worthy. Hope is proclaimed, yet we are afraid to trust. Christ calls us to obedience, but we refuse to listen. When called on to follow, we are filled with excuses. We applaud commitment, but we treasure our comfort. Forgive our reluctance to walk in newness of life. Amen.

Silent Reflection and Prayer

Response

Lord Have Mercy

Choir

Assurance of Grace (John 3:17)

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. May you delight in the joy of your salvation.

Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*Greeting and Sharing Christ's Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

Proclaiming God's Word

Children's Message

Children's Offering will be collected as they come forward for the Message.

All children and youth are invited to Sunday School classes following the Message.

Childcare for infants through two year-olds available in the nursery, room 11.

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

**Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and to create a whole new world.
As we meditate on your word this day, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may
treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (pg. 642)

Glenn Fields

Anthem

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert Martin

(text can be found at hymn 223)

Scripture Reading

John 12:20-33 (pg. 875)

Message

Rev. Nancy Asbury

Responding to God's Word

*Hymn 724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Please list prayers on pink slips located in pew racks - pass them to ushers during the hymn.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

My Savior's Love

Lloyd Larson

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus, the Nazarene. I wonder how He could love me, a sinner condemned unclean. For me it was in the garden He prayed: "not my will, but Thine." He had no tears for his own griefs, but sweat drops of blood for mine. How marvelous, how wonderful! And my song shall ever be: He took my sins and sorrows, He made them his very own. He bore the burden to Calvary, He suffered and died alone. How marvelous is my Savior's love for me.

Response (Hymn 607)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow: praise Christ all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

With grateful hearts, we bring the fruit of our lives to you, O God. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and takes on new life, it remains just a single grain. May these gifts grow into their fullness through Christ to glorify you and bless the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sending the Faithful Into God's World

*Hymn 826

Lift High the Cross

*Charge and Benediction

Response

Go in Peace

Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere you may go.

Postlude

Lift High the Cross

Gordon Young

Next Sunday — March 25, 2018

Service at 9:30 am

Palm Sunday

Rev. Nancy Asbury preaching

Chancel Choir and Memorial Ringers participating

Upcoming Holy Week and Easter Services

March 29th — Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 pm with Communion

March 30th — Good Friday tenebrae service at 7:30 pm

Chancel Choir presents "Shadows of Sacrifice"

April 1st — Easter service at 9:30 am with Communion