# THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 3rd, 2022



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1 Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661 ·

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Bulletin Announcements: Please send to <a href="mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca">secretary@christlutheransc.ca</a>.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com

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Secretary: Pat Kimpel <a href="mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca">secretary@christlutheransc.ca</a>

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\*

<u>Prayer</u>: Almighty and eternal God, because it was Your will that Your Son should bear the pains of the cross for us and thus remove from us the power of the adversary, help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive remission of sins and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.Amen.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR UKRAINE: A prayer for peace in the midst of conflict. Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have been our life in the midst of death, and our peace where there is no peace. Look upon Your servants in Ukraine and Russia with Your grace and assure them darkness of political unrest You remain the Liaht of Dearest Jesus, through the cross you defeated all that keeps us from the peace that passes understanding. In these tense days, we pray, be the Good Shepherd of Your flock in Eastern Europe and around the world and give all persons and countries aching from social and political turmoil Your Good News of sins forgiven, and life restored. Holy Spirit, You gather us into Your Church where we are made new by Your Holy Word. Keep us from civil strife, from the aggressive spilling of blood, and turn back all misfortunes that lead to hostility and death. Grant a speedy reconciliation to those on opposite sides of the conflict; soften the hearts of the unmerciful and bring them to the knowledge of You. Triune God, grant peace in our world, especially in Ukraine and Russia, and in Your whole Church on earth, that with one heart and mind we may sing Your praises, and have peace at the last, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Heb. 7: 23-27 Wed.: John 13: 31-35 Friday: John 11: 47-55 Tuesday: John 7: 1-13 Thurs: Heb. 10: 1-10 Saturday: Exod. 32: 30-34

Children's Message: Psalm 126:3 https://youtu.be/d3Vc1LYK1ck

Organist: Louise Gondosch

**Readers:** 9 a.m. — Chris Mason 11 a.m. — Fran Porteous Greeters: 9 a.m. --- George & Gail Julie

<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>: Sunday School will be meeting today (April 3<sup>rd</sup>) following the Early Service. Please note there will be NO Sunday School next Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> as there will be a coffee hour downstairs celebrating our new Confirmands. Please join us!

#### **WORSHIP NOTE:**

- A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube "Gathering the Scattered" at: (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSq).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: <a href="mailto:christlutheransc.ca">christlutheransc.ca</a>.
- Archived videos of Sunday's service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca "Worship" page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<a href="http://christlutheransc.ca/">http://christlutheransc.ca/</a>), contact Judy Slingerland (<a href="mailto:chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca">chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca</a>) or Pastor Todd (<a href="mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com">pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com</a>). or phone the church office (905-685-8294). May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

**MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE**: We know each of us should all be working to memorize God's Word! You are invited to listen to our Children's Messages where we are focusing on understanding and memorizing a Psalm verse each week. This week is Psalm 126: 3.

Pastor Todd's mid-week (March 30th) message.

https://youtu.be/5vEeufssNkk



## **MID-WEEK LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

begins Wednesday, MARCH 9th and continues every Wednesday from 7-8 pm until Easter.

Led by Pastor Todd in the church sanctuary Materials will be provided ahead of time.

"LIFT HIGH THE CROSS -- Jesus For Our Freedom:
A Lenten Journey Through Matthew's Gospel account of the Passion."

**RITE OF CONFIRMATION:** Nine youth will publicly confess their Baptismal faith during our Palm Sunday, April 10, 9:00 am. Holy Communion service. A time of refreshments & friendly gathering will happen downstairs in between the services to meet & support our young people. 11 a.m. remains Traditional Palm Sunday Service with communion.

Easter Pancake Breakfast": Please join us Sunday, April 17, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex to those who wish to attend. Please make the extra effort to sign up in the Narthex or call the Church with your intentions or email <a href="mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca">secretary@christlutheransc.ca</a> Thank you!

<u>Women's Bible Study</u>: Have you ever thought about the central role the table plays in the lives of Christians? The Bible is full of references about food, drink, eating, and fellowship. Jesus knew the power of the table and used it to teach and embody truth about himself. When we sit down for a meal with others, we get to know them better while we nourish our bodies and souls. In this seven-session series, complete with simple yet delicious recipes, Bianca Juárez Olthoff leads us through Jesus' interactions around the table, inspiring us to invite people into our homes, open the Word of God, and break bread together. We hope you will consider joining us in person, here at the church on **Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (April 8th, April 22nd)** or watch this study entitled "*Table Talks*" yourself at rightnowmedia.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Rev. Dr. John Nunes, former president of Concordia College, Bronxville NY, originally from Hamilton, ON [who preached for Pastor Todd's installation] will be coming to Christ Lutheran on MAY 24! From 7-9 PM. He is giving a "book talk" work shop style in the sanctuary on his 2020 paperback, "MEANT FOR MORE". Pastor Todd has some copies to share with any who would like to read ahead before he arrives. More information yet to come. ALL ARE WELCOME!

### **LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:**

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19**, **2022 in Winnipeg**, **Manitoba**. The theme for the gathering is **"IN NOT OF"** from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <a href="http://www.lccnyg.ca">http://www.lccnyg.ca</a>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY</a>

Last Sunday Attendance: March 27th, 2022 Attn: 9 A.M. – 45; 11 A.M. – 45; Total: 90					Total: 90
	<u>Budget</u>	Weekly Need	Last Sunday	Year To Date	<u>+ or – ()</u>
Current:	233,400.00	4,488.46	1,816.00	48,410.95	(9,939.05)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	384.62	111.00	3,291.50	(1,708.50)
Property Improvement:			119.00	1,631.50	•

**OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES** to Steve Duga whose brother John passed away March 25<sup>th</sup>. The funeral was held in Bradford this past Wednesday. He was 88. "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Ps. 34:18

**EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED:** we continually need extra people assisting in our services. With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Greeting of Worshippers at entrance and Covid Protocol Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 2) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 3) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 4) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 5) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles

Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided] We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

**GREETERS**: - What a wonderful way to get to know everyone in the congregation and at the same time enjoy a little fellowship! Greet members at the door, encourage hand sanitizing and provide them with a copy of the Bulletin and Worship Folder. It's as easy as that! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and everyone is encouraged to sign up.

**LWML-Canada, Ontario District, Niagara Zone**, is hosting our District Convention in St. Catharines at Grace Lutheran Church (accommodation at Niagara College) on June 9 to 11th, 2022. More details will follow. If at all possible, please plan to attend. It is a wonderful time to get to know and renew friendships with our sisters in Christ from around the province! It is a time to focus on "Joy, Patience, Prayer" which is the theme of the Convention. (Romans 12:12) Our Seminary Student Eduardo Farias and his wife Daniella will be our wonderful entertainment for Friday evening!



**THE MARY MARTHA** is collecting items for Medical Missions that they will take to the Ingathering at the LWML District Convention this coming June, we invite everyone to help by adding items to the container sitting on the Narthex Table. Below is a list of supplies which Medical Missions use on an ongoing basis. Please ensure that you check expire dates to ensure that the dates are well into the future:

Monetary Gifts made payable to "Christ Lutheran Church" and placed in an envelope designated for "LWML Ontario District Medical Missions". Everything appreciated with Thanks

- Antibiotic Ointment (Polysporin, etc.)
- Vicks VapoRub
- Tylenol, Advil, Acetaminophen for Adults and Childen
- Disposable Gloves
- Vitamins for Adults and Children

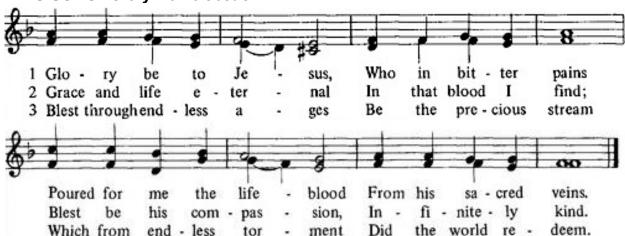
- Zinc Oxide/Diaper Rash Cream
- Antihistamines Benadryl
- Q-Tips
- Voltarin (Arthritic Ointment)
- Band Aids/Adhesive Tape
- ACE Elastic Bandag

## **SCRIPTURE & SONGS**

April 3, 2022 + 9 AM Worship

#### **GATHERING**

BEGINNING SONG "Glory Be To Jesus"



6 Lift we then our voices, Swell the mighty flood; Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood.

Text: Italian, 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78 Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804-76 WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN

#### WE BEGIN IN GOD'S NAME

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

I was glad when they said to me,

Let us go to the House of the Lord!

Unless the Lord builds the House.

In vain do the builders labour.

Surely the Lord is in this place.

This is the House of God, this is the Gate of Heaven!

You are gracious and merciful, O God,

Slow to anger, rich in love.

Receive our prayers and worship as You have promised

And uphold us by Your Spirit,

Until all things, mended by Your mercy,

Are made whole and well in You,

Through Jesus Christ

Our healer and our hope. Amen.



#### CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS

To You, O Lord God,

All hearts are open, to You all desires are fully known. We come to You, moved by Your Word and Spirit, as sinners, confessing our sins. Forgive us in Your mercy. Remember us in Your love. Show us Your way, teach us Your path, lead us in truth and faithfulness, for the sake of our neighbour and for Your sake, O Lord God, in the hope of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

By water, Word and Spirit, our God gives you new birth and through the death and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in His name and in His stead, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

When the Son sets you free, you are free indeed!

Praise be to God!

#### **LENTEN SONG**

"Blessed Assurance"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
 Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
 born of his Spirit, washed in his
 blood.

Refrain:

This is my story; this is my song: praising my Saviour all the day long; this is my story; this is my song: praising my Saviour all the day long.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Saviour am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain:

This is my story; this is my song: praising my Saviour all the day long; this is my story; this is my song: praising my Saviour all the day long. Fanny Crosby, public domain

#### **GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Hear my prayer O Lord,

Listen to my call for help.

We pray: Eternal God and Father, because it was Your will that Your Son should bear the pains of the cross for us and remove from us the power of the enemy, help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Suffering and Passion that we may receive the total forgiveness of sins and ransoming from the curse of everlasting death. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### SCRIPTURE

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Philippians 3:8-14

[St. Paul writes]: More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPOKEN GOSPEL VERSE

"Sacrifice"

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and sorrowful heart, O God, You will not despise. Amen

The Holy Gospel: St. John 12: 1-11

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

#### THE 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. On 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.

#### **GOSPEL SONG:**

## "Meekness & Majesty"

#### Verse 1:

Meekness and majesty -- manhood and deity In perfect harmony, the Man who is God Lord of eternity --dwells in humanity Kneels in humility and washes our feet

#### Chorus:

O what a mystery Meekness and majesty Bow down and worship For this is your God This is your God

#### Verse 2:

Father's pure radiance --perfect in innocence Yet learns obedience to death on a cross Suffering to give us life, conqu'ring through sacrifice

And as they crucify, prays 'Father forgive'

#### Verse 3:

Wisdom unsearchable --God the invisible Love indestructible --In frailty appears Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly Lifts our humanity --to the heights of His throne

Graham Kendrick





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## **MESSAGE**

#### PRAYERS:

Our Lord received Mary's offering. Let us come before God our Father and offer our prayers for the world, knowing that he will hear us for Jesus' sake.

Gracious heavenly Father, we offer you our thanks, praise and love through Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave himself for us. Thank you for your holy church which you sustain with your powerful, life giving word. Bless your church throughout the world that all your people may celebrate the coming days of holy week with true faith and devotion. Be especially with those who are preparing for baptism and confirmation this Easter.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Your Son accepted the service of Martha, the friendship of Lazarus, and the devotion of Mary: bless your people everywhere who serve you in all kinds of different ways:

- for those who serve in the church, as Bishops, pastors, church workers and lay people;
- for those who serve in the home, as parents and care-givers;
- for those who serve in the workplace, as employers and employees;
- for students and school children who serve by learning for the future;
- for those who volunteer their services in the community;
- for those who offer friendship;
- for those who pray, fast, or give generously of their time and money;
- for those who befriend the disadvantaged;
- for those who whose work is dangerous.

Bless the service of all your people, and assure them that you are well pleased with their work.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Speak to the consciences of those who plan some evil – show them that honesty is better than falsehood, and that peace is better than violence. Give to our political leaders and citizens alike a deep commitment to goodness and mutual well-being. Keep us all from the greed and false compassion.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Your Son drew close to Lazarus and raised him from the dead: be near all people who are close to death, and grant them faith in you. Strengthen all who are preparing for the death of a loved one, that they may make the most of the time left to them. And help all who work among the dying: the doctors, nursing staff, chaplains and volunteers who work in hospices and nursing homes.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, Mary honoured the Lord with her gift of perfume. May we honour you in our lives by honouring all who are in need. Be with those who are ill or suffering, applying the soothing balm of healing and hope to [names added...] assure them of Your goodness, mercy and care;

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Finally, humbly voicing our concerns together as one:

O God our Father, by the cross of Your Son You reconciled the world to Yourself, enabling us to live in love and harmony. We thank and praise You for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help us forgive each other and all others and to establish truth and harmony throughout the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE LORD'SPRAYER:

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.

#### THE BLESSING

Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep. May you hear His voice and keep His Word.

Amen, thanks be to God.

Jesus is the Pathway that leads to life. May You follow in His narrow way.

Amen, praise be to God.

Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His Word and love. **Amen. Glory to our God.** 

May the Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you now and always. **Amen.** 

SENDING SONG:

"I've Got Peace Like A River"

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river, in my soulI've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul;
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.

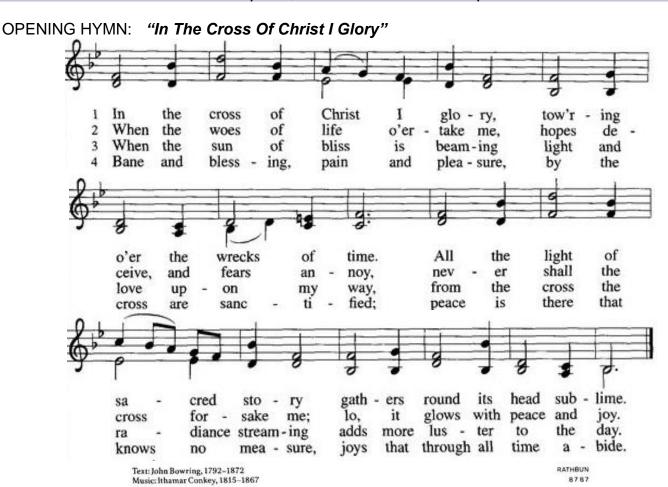
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean I've got love like an ocean, in my soul I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.

So, I've got peace like a river, I've got joy like a fountain I've got love like an ocean in my soul;
So, I've got peace like a river, I've got joy like a fountain I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

African American Spiritual

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Lutheran Service Book Setting One April 3, 2022 + 11 AM worship



#### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:**

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

#### Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [Brief silence for reflection]

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 



**GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY** 

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

Let us pray: Eternal God and Father, because it was Your will that Your Son should bear the pains of the cross for us and remove from us the power of the enemy, help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Suffering and Passion that we may receive the total forgiveness of sins and ransoming from the curse of everlasting death. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### THE READINGS:

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:16-21

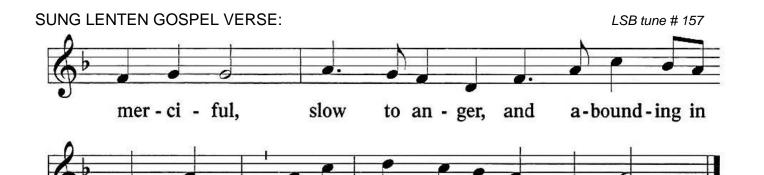
Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### **Epistle** Philippians 3:8-14

[St. Paul writes]: More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

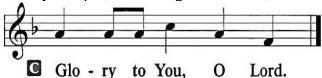


and a - bound - ing in stead - fast

Holy Gospel: St. John 12:1-11

stead-fast love,

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter:



Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus. This is the Gospel of the Lord.



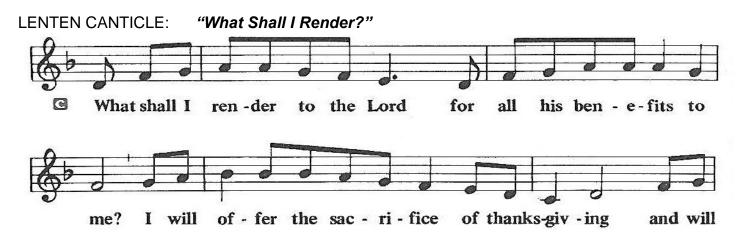
#### THE APOSTLES' CREED:

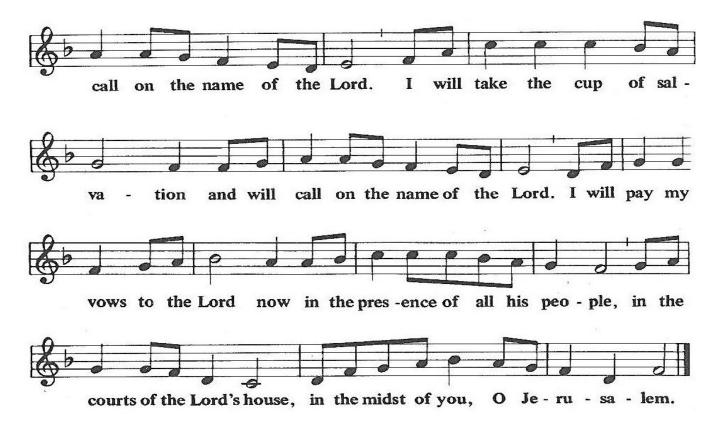
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from 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.

- When Judas said, "what will you do with ointment rich and rare?""I'll pour it on the dear Lord's feet and wipe it with my hair; I'll wipe it with my hair.
- "Oh Mary, think of all the poor -this ointment, could be sold, and think of blankets and more bread you'd buy with coins of gold; you'd buy with coins of gold."
- 3 "Tomorrow, I can think of poor Tomorrow, not today; for dearer than this whole world's poor is He Who'll go away; is He Who'll go away."
- 4 Said Christ to her, "Your love runs deep You may do as you will. You're right! I soon will go away, my body remains here still; my body remains here still."
- "The poor make up my body,' he said,
  "the ends of the world they be,
  the bread and blankets for the poor
  you've giv'n to me," He said; you've giv'n to me." He said.
- 6 "For soon my body hangs on the cross tomorrow, not today, and Mary will find Me again all sorrows gone away; all sorrows gone away."

Words: Sydney Carter; © 1964 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (Admin. Hope Publishing Company) https://hymnary.org/text/said\_judas\_to\_mary

#### **MESSAGE**





#### **PRAYERS**

Our Lord received Mary's offering. Let us come before God our Father and offer our prayers for the world, knowing that he will hear us for Jesus' sake.

Gracious heavenly Father, we offer you our thanks, praise and love through Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave himself for us. Thank you for your holy church which you sustain with your powerful, life giving word. Bless your church throughout the world that all your people may celebrate the coming days of holy week with true faith and devotion. Be especially with those who are preparing for baptism and confirmation this Easter.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Your Son accepted the service of Martha, the friendship of Lazarus, and the devotion of Mary: bless your people everywhere who serve you in all kinds of different ways:

- for those who serve in the church, as Bishops, pastors, church workers and lay people;
- for those who serve in the home, as parents and care-givers;
- for those who serve in the workplace, as employers and employees;
- for students and school children who serve by learning for the future;
- for those who volunteer their services in the community;
- for those who offer friendship;
- for those who pray, fast, or give generously of their time and money;
- for those who befriend the disadvantaged;
- for those who whose work is dangerous.

Bless the service of all your people, and assure them that you are well pleased with their work.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Speak to the consciences of those who plan some evil – show them that honesty is better than falsehood, and that peace is better than violence. Give to our political leaders and citizens alike a deep commitment to goodness and mutual well-being. Keep us all from the greed and false compassion.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Your Son drew close to Lazarus and raised him from the dead: be near all people who are close to death, and grant them faith in you. Strengthen all who are preparing for the death of a loved one, that they may make the most of the time left to them. And help all who work among the dying: the doctors, nursing staff, chaplains and volunteers who work in hospices and nursing homes.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, Mary honoured the Lord with her gift of perfume. May we honour you in our lives by honouring all who are in need. Be with those who are ill or suffering, applying the soothing balm of healing and hope to [names added...] assure them of Your goodness, mercy and care;

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Finally, humbly voicing our concerns together as one:

O God our Father, by the cross of Your Son You reconciled the world to Yourself, enabling us to live in love and harmony. We thank and praise You for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help us forgive each other and all others and to establish truth and harmony throughout the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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. 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:**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace.

Amen.



https://hymnary.org/hymn/LW1982/page/958

# REV. TODD HOEFFS

LENT 5

Scripture: John 12: 1-11

Title: "The Sweet Smell Of Jesus' Success"

**April 3, 2022** 

+ F, S + HS. AMEN.

Over the last number of years "scent sensitivity" has become the norm in many public places.

Places like hospitals, theatres, some churches, encourage people

NOT to wear strong scented perfumes or colognes due to allergies.

Mary is aware of the strong scent residing in her alabaster jar. As she had been aware of the scent of death at the cemetery When her brother Lazarus was buried.

Jesus, my brother "stinketh" [KJV] for he's been dead 4 days! You could've done something! Strong scented words to Jesus. Her brother died. Jesus' wept. Shortest verse in the entire scriptures! Jesus responds with: "Lazarus, come out!" And he walks out of the tomb! Alive!

Now, that same dead man walking, sits down to dinner with Jesus. Imagine the table gossip!? Between Jesus' resuscitation of Lazarus and this odd dinner party, the chief priests and the Pharisees call a meeting of the council. Jesus has been performing increasingly worrisome signs, and now there's talk that he's raising people from the dead. So a plan is hatched to have Jesus arrested and put to death. We can almost feel the tension in the air as Jesus sits with Mary, Martha and Lazarus to have a meal. The cost of Lazarus' new lease on life might very well be Jesus' own life, and one dinner guest—Judas—is hyper focused on doing everything in his power to make it so. Just then, Mary, who hangs on Jesus' every word, Gets up from the table, let down her hair, opens up her jar of strong scented nard, anoints Jesus' feet, and begins wiping them with her hair.

This NARD is expensive. \$ 32,000 value today for this, which is like a scented oil,

Poured all over Jesus' feet. No small gift. No empty gesture. Aromatic Nard is extracted drop by drop from a root that's found only in Eastern Indian Himalayan mountains --now Nepal. It had to be carried across India and the Arabian desert to the Middle Eastern region.

A strong scent like an essential healing and pre-burial preserving oil [still can be purchased under the name spikenard] Tremendously valuable commodity in Jesus' time. Like a perfectly clear diamond today or a gold standard. A rare and lavish gift with meaning and purpose. A gift showing off Jesus' own expensive value. There's a few reasons why Mary's action is viewed as scandalous by religious leaders—Ancient social conventions, disrupting a dinner, distracting from the return of Lazarus, touching feet in Biblical days often triggered a certain intimacy – But this is truly a most personal form of worship. Judas, in contrast, with his gaze firmly fixed on the Almighty Dollar, sanctimoniously critiques Mary's behavior on economic grounds. A waste of money. Spend it on the poor. Really? Do we think Judas cares about the poor? Jesus says, "You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." This would have fallen on Jewish ears in the same way that "Do unto others..." falls on our own ears. Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy [15:11] to Judas' intrusion. This is not a missed opportunity to serve the poor and needy; rather, this is prime opportunity to be in communion and fellowship with the One whose days on earth are numbered.

The day is coming soon when he himself would be poured out as a costly and precious sacrifice for the life of the world. We know this perfume is expensive. But it ties together the Old Way and the New Way. Jesus is anointed of a king, as David generations before – of Whom Jesus is both His Son and His Lord. This is also an anointing of one given over to death. Maybe Mary captures in this gesture, the connection between Christ the king and Christ the sacrificial lamb. For even lambs for offering got washed before slaughter. Mary is quite a prophetess here. She is preparing Jesus for what is facing Him. What He's about to do for her, And for all of the world. As costly as this perfume is, it's framed in humility. Wiping up Jesus' feet with her own hair is not only the task of a slave, but Is placing her self as low as dirt under his feet. In Jesus' day, as in similar cultures today, a woman's hair is her glory.

To take it down and soil it cleansing the feet of another was, well, just shocking. . . . . about as shocking as our Lord washing the feet of his disciples. Mary gives a costly, humble, worshipful gesture of faith and thankfulness. And it alerts us to the nature of God's gift to us. . the gift of his only Son . . . the sacrificial lamb . . . the one who would be king. . . given to die for us, whose life would be extracted drop by drop on the cross. Mary is given faith to see Jesus for Who He is – King & God & Sacrifice. So, what extravagance are we capable of in light of God's faithfulness and love? How are we changed and so moved to offer this kind of love? Do our values change and does what we value change in the light of Christ's great gift to us? All of us have reasons to dance in the streets because of the gifts God has given us, through Christ, through that encounter. It begins with our faith. The gift of faith is based on God's own extravagant lavish nature. Made all the more valuable because it is **not** something we can acquire or conjure on our own . . . faith to believe and trust and value our Lord is simply a gift. Unwrapped in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

For faith is an extravagant gift based on another extravagant gift. The gift of Jesus' life.

And in its sway, we are capable of a lavish response, like Mary.

But first, we need to recognize that value and values change. Circumstances, shifts in our attitudes, even other values cause us to soft-pedal, even deny that God's gift has any power or value. The true value of Mary's gift is realized in the giving . . .in honouring Christ. So too with our gifts. Because of God's mercy, and compassion and love and sacrifice, we have jars full of the same wonderful gifts. Their value soaked in the blood of Christ which is the sweetest smell of success. As soiled as we are with imperfection, As much as we stinketh from sin, we are made clean and new, perfumed with Jesus' righteousness. The offering of animals on the altar for God is ending. The smell of death is superseded by the aroma of grace. Christ's life poured out at Calvary, mingled

The cross is success. God's success. Evil loses. Death loses. Sin loses.

An eternity in hell is overturned. In a drained, life-less body,

Perfumed, Buried, Anointed with our death sentence. Resuscitated from the grave.

And we have so much to give.

with sweat and sour wine of crucifixion.

We have costly grace woven into our faith building a healthy sense of compassion Which moves us to help where there is need. Soon we see the needs and God leads us to meet those needs.

To pour out our time, our listening ears, our prayers, our active feet and hands...For those are costly today. For we have all been bought with the price of our Saviour's Blood.

A blood we drink, a body we eat,

A Body we are in the world.

We are living sacrifices of Jesus to those we meet.

May we not stinketh of death,

But smell as the sweet scent of our successful Saviour.

Amen.