



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

7800 Erie Street

Sylvania, OH 43560

www.ststephenlutheran.church

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March 26, 2023 10:30 A.M.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Stand

Confession

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C Amen.

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and
God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Holy God,

C we confess to you our faults and failings.

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

Amen.

P Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy.

☩ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C Amen.

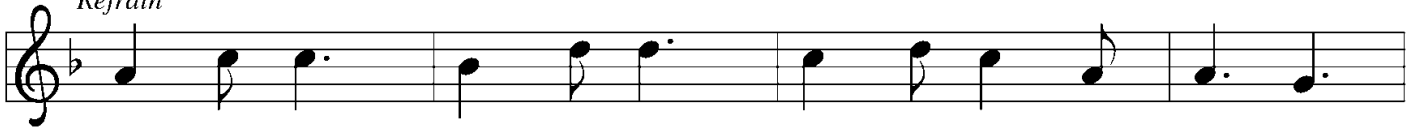


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB



1 Now be - hold the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God, who
2 Ho - ly is the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Why
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Be -



bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre-cious Lamb of God.
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre-cious Lamb of God.
cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre-cious Lamb of God.

Text: Kirk Franklin, b. 1970

Music: NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB, Kirk Franklin

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FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14
A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

p. 704

Stand

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to John 11:1-45

p. 873

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

the gospel is read

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON

Stand



- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
 Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

The presiding minister may note briefly the occasion for this affirmation.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
 the powers of this world that rebel against God,
 and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant
God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

The assembly makes affirmation:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor concludes each petition with: "Merciful God,"

C "Receive our prayer."

Pastor concludes with:

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your
promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Sharing of the Peace

If you are in our sanctuary please wave or give a peace sign to those around you. If you are
worshipping online, please type a greeting of peace to others.

Stand

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 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

Sit

COMMUNION:

All people who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are welcome to come and receive Christ's body and blood. Regardless of your church background or affiliation, you are welcome to come forward. We will begin with those seated on the pulpit side of the congregation then those seated on the keyboard side then those that are in the back section. You may come down the center aisle to receive the bread. Choose an individual cup (red is wine, white is grape juice) to receive and use the receptacle to dispose of your cup as you return to your seat using the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Stand

COMMUNION SONG

"O PRAISE THE NAME"

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree
His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone
O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God
Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King
He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

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Sending Forth

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep
you in his grace. Amen

Benediction

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

Closing Song

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" ELW 324



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

DEPARTURE BID

A Go in peace. Serve in love.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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