



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024
Service and Sacrifice

As We Gather

Today's Epistle speaks of Jesus, our High Priest. High priests are called to offer sacrifices for the sins of the people as well as themselves. Jesus is a different sort of high priest who offers Himself as sacrifice, once for all, that we might be forgiven and granted eternal salvation. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims that He came not to be served, but to serve. He came to offer His life as a ransom for us. As we follow Jesus, we are called to reflect His actions and attitude of service and sacrifice. May we likewise go to serve and sacrifice for others.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Opening Sentences

- P** What a priest we have in Jesus!
- C** He is our source of eternal salvation.
- P** He sympathizes with us in our weakness.
- C** He offers prayers and supplications for us.

- P** He serves us and sacrifices Himself for us.
- C** What a priest we have in Jesus!

Confession and Absolution

- P** Though Jesus is our great High Priest, we have lived as if we did not need Him, as though our sin was not dire and deadly. Despite our self-centered failures, our heavenly Father is merciful, and because of Jesus, He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

- P** Heavenly Father,
- C** we have sinned against our neighbors and against You. We have sought to be served. We have demanded others sacrifice for us. Forgive us, renew us, and humble us, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world to be our great High Priest, who came to serve and offer His life as a ransom for us. Christ died and is risen for you. 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.
- C** Amen. We are forgiven. Christ has sacrificed His life for us.

Introit for Lent 5

Psalm 116:1-4, 8; antiphon: Psalm 43:1

- C** Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!
- P** I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”
For You have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!

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Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Epistle

Hebrews 5:1–10

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary**

and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

- P** We turn to our great priest Jesus in prayer, who has promised to hear us and intercede for us.
For what a priest we have in Jesus,
- C** who became our sacrifice.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, be present with all those who are vulnerable and in need of advocacy, especially those in abusive relationships, the homeless, the disabled, and all children. Give us courage to be advocates and intercessors for those in need just as You are an advocate and intercessor for us. For what a priest we have in Jesus,
- C** who became our sacrifice.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us as we endure the temptations and assaults of the devil. Forge our shields of faith to be stronger in resistance of Satan and his fiery arrows. Forgive us when we fail. For what a priest we have in Jesus,
- C** who became our sacrifice.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life that You have won for all who believe in You. For what a priest we have in Jesus,
- C** who became our sacrifice.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, You learned obedience through suffering. Strengthen us when we face suffering to learn obedience to Your Word of truth. For what a priest we have in Jesus,
- C** who became our sacrifice.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, as a priest You serve and sacrifice. Teach all people in Your church to follow Your example of service and sacrifice for the sake of others. For what a priest we have in Jesus,
- C** who became our sacrifice.
- P** Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering... Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. For what a priest we have in Jesus,
- C** who became our sacrifice.
- P** Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Offering

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Prayer

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through your Word and Spirit, we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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