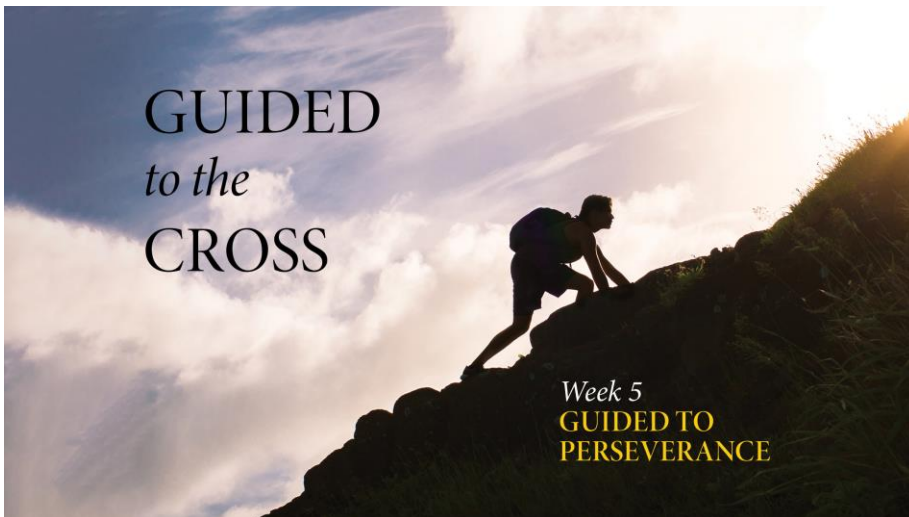


Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.



Welcome!

To our guests and visitors:

We are glad that you are here with us today!
If you have no church home, consider joining us?
Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service!

Open Hymn Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus LSB 685:1-2

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where he is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; Help me there your joy to know.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P Jesus repeatedly told his disciples what lay ahead for him. It was the purpose for which he had come. Calling himself the Son of Man, a title for the Messiah from the prophet Daniel, Jesus said, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day" (Matthew 17:22-23).

C **Teach us, Lord, to follow you in faithfulness.**

P As the time drew near for Jesus to finish his earthly ministry and to be taken up to heaven, he turned to Jerusalem and to the cross: "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51)

C **When our days are difficult and challenging, Lord Jesus, help us to keep our focus on you.**

P As Jesus began to take his final steps toward the cross, he said, "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name" (John 12:27-28).

C **Jesus, in faithfulness, you took up the cross for the sake of our salvation. Set your cross before us to guide us to persevere in faith.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us confess our sins to God, and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, we are called to persevere in our obedience to your will and your ways, but instead we sin against you. We do not walk in your ways or love others as we should. We are more interested in fulfilling our own desires than serving others and being faithful to your Word. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.**

P God, in his mercy, sent his Son to deliver us. Jesus faithfully obeyed his Father's will and suffered and died to save us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **Lord, lead us to walk faithfully in your ways.**

Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem as the time of your death drew near. You did not turn away from what lay ahead. In Gethsemane, you prayed that your Father's will, not yours, would be done. You were faithful to your purpose and obedient to your heavenly Father, obedient to the point of death on a cross. Lead us by your Spirit to be faithful to you in our thoughts, words and actions, so that our lives bear witness to your steadfast love.

C **Amen.**

Hymn	Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus	LSB 531:1-2
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Hail, thou once despised Jesus! Hail, thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us; Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Savior, Bearer of our sin and shame!
By thy merit we find favor: Life is given through thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, All our sins on thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed, Thou hast full atonement made.
All thy people are forgiven Through the virtue of thy blood;
Opened is the gate of heaven, Reconciled are we with God.

Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:7-8

“Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

Ephesians 6:13-20

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 19:16-22

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather,

‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Hymn Drawn to the Cross

LSB 560:1-2,4

Drawn to the cross, which thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.

Sermon Guided To Perseverance

The Offering

Ephesians 6:18

Prayer of the Church

P Lord Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem, where you would take up your cross for the sake of our salvation. In faithful obedience to your heavenly Father, you suffered and died to save us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C **Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**

P Lord Jesus, when we face difficult days in life, when we are filled with doubt or fear, strengthen us to persevere in faith and to hold fast to the hope and peace that you have brought us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C **Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**

P Lord Jesus, be present with those who face illness, pain and grief. Comfort them through the promises of your Word, and keep them strong in faith. Guide us as we serve them in love. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

P Lord Jesus, keep us steadfast in the study of your Word so that we will grow in faith, ready to defend the hope that is ours and to be your witnesses each day. Give us opportunities to speak to others about your redeeming death and triumphant resurrection, so that in the power of the Spirit, they, too, may come to follow you in faith. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.

P Lord Jesus, faithful to your purpose and to your Father's will, you suffered and died to save us. Keep us steadfast in faith, walking in your footsteps, until we live in your presence forever. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness. Amen.

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

Benediction

P Into your hand I commit my spirit;

C You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake LSB 688:1,2,5

“Come, follow me,” the Savior spake,

“All in my way abiding;

Deny yourselves, the world forsake,
Obey my call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate'er betide,
Take my example for your guide."

"I am the Light, I light the way,
A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day;
I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show
How you must sojourn here below."

Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,
And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to his Word,
In suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.