

THE FIFTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT
MARCH 24, 2021

Theme of the Day: Augustus Toplady (1740–78) summarizes the only sane response to Zechariah 13:1, “Foul, I to the fountain fly, wash me Savior or I die!”

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP (From selected verses in Zechariah 9:9–10)

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

C: Amen.

P: Behold, your King comes to you—

C: Righteous and having salvation.

P: Speaking peace to the nations.

C: And ruling from sea to sea—

P: To the ends of the earth!

C: God’s kingdom comes—

P: To us!

All: Through Jesus Christ our Lord!

HYMN Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain #435:1-3

- 1 Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

- 2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

- 3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Come to Calvary’s holy mountain, sinners ruined by the fall.

C: Here, a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all.

P: In a full, perpetual tide—

C: Opened when our Savior died!

P: Coming to Calvary's holy mountain, we confess our sins.
Silence for reflection and confession.

P: Merciful Father—

C: I am wrapped up in myself.

P: I cling to comfort and choose the easy way.

C: I want tweaking not transformation.

P: Greed, envy, intolerance and jealousy mark my life.

C: I fail to learn, and what I have learned, I fail to practice.

P: I judge others with a standard I never use for myself.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

P: Zechariah 13:1 states, "On that day there will be a fountain opened to cleanse from sin and uncleanness." Because of Christ's cross and crucifixion—Zechariah's day is today. Here, a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all. In a full, perpetual tide opened when our Savior died. In Jesus' name, you are absolved, forgiven and loved! God's kingdom comes to us—

All: Through Jesus Christ our Lord!

HYMN

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

#435:4

4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, when you died, the spear through your side brought forth a sudden flow of blood and water that forgives sin, heals hurts and destroys demons. Send forth your Holy Spirit so that we benefit and are saved by these marvelous gifts; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE READINGS ARE ABOUT GOD'S GIFT OF CLEANSING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Zechariah 13:1–2

"On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. "On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Silence for Meditation on the Lesson]

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 1:8–2:2

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

E: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Silence for Meditation on the Lesson]

GOSPEL LESSON

John 19:28–37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTELS' 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.

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 T everlasting. Amen.**

SERMON

“The Redeemer’s Refinery”

Zechariah 13:1–2

P: We pray,

ALL: “And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

P: What does this mean?

ALL: We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

OFFERING & HYMN

Rock of Ages

#761

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.
- 2 Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,

When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

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PRAYERS

P: Our King comes to us, righteous and having salvation. May God hear our prayers, because of our crucified and risen King—Christ Jesus.

A brief silence

P: Heavenly Father, as you first came to us, claiming us as your own, we welcome you into our lives—

C: We make ourselves available to your holy will.

P: Help us become living examples of your love in the world.

C: Open our hearts to the areas of our lives that need to change—

P: So we carry out the mission of our church—

C: *Connecting People to Jesus.*

P: Inspire us to live the Christian life—

C: In ways that are dynamic and engaging.

P: Bring renewal to our church.

C: And make us hunger and thirst for more of Jesus.

P: Give us courage when we are afraid.

C: Hope when we are discouraged.

P: And clarity in times of decision.

Additional prayers: After each petition respond...

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: They that drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul renewing flood.

C: God is faithful; God will never, break his covenant of blood.

P: Signed when our Redeemer died—

All: Sealed when he was glorified. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (From Zechariah 9:9)

P: Behold, your King comes to you—

C: Righteous and having salvation.

P: Speaking peace to the nations.

C: And ruling from sea to sea—

P: To the ends of the earth!

C: God's kingdom comes—

P: To us!

C: By his Spirit.

P: God's kingdom comes through us—

C: **To the ends of the earth!**

All: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

#918

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

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SILENT PRAYER "Foul, I to the fountain fly, wash me Savior or I die!" Amen.