

THE FIFTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT, March 24, 2021

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

OPENING LITANY AND CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: And my mouth will declare your praise.

P: For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

C: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

P: With humble and repentant hearts, let us confess our sins unto God our Father.

C: O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled.

Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

P: On the basis of your confession and the Lord's promise, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON: John 1:29-34

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION, Amazing Grace for the Faithful

HYMN: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”, LBW 482

(Text: Public domain)

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown!**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we were lost in sin and you promised to send to us a Savior, your own beloved Son. He came as the perfect sacrifice for sin; he died the death that we deserved and because of his death and resurrection, our sins are forgiven. Help us to share the good news about Jesus, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN: “Amazing Grace”, st. 5

**Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.**