

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 13, 2016

**THEME:** God gives us ample opportunity to use His gifts.

*Note – Do to technical difficulties, not all of the service was recorded.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING PRAYER

#### A WORD ABOUT OUR WORSHIP TODAY

P: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**C: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

P: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

**C: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

P: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

**C: Teach me Your paths.**

*Psalm 27*

#### CONFESSING TO GOD

P: Our passage from Philippians encourages us to “count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus.” The Apostle Paul could say these words. He was one who experienced great loss throughout his life—even losing his freedom as he was held in jail. Paul counted his relationship with Jesus as the most important part of his life. This gave him hope and purpose. As we open our worship, we begin by reflecting upon the many times that we have not followed Paul’s example—forgetting the worth that comes from knowing Jesus.

#### *Silent Reflection*

P: We confess.....

**C: Lord, you have called us to follow you. Instead of following you, we have gone different ways. We have valued our connection to earthly things rather than our relationship with you. We haven’t counted everything else as loss, but have desired more and more of what we have. Give us a new heart today in your forgiveness. We want to value you above all else.**

P: Paul once said, “One thing I do.....I forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead.” These words of advice are made possible in a real way through God’s forgiveness. What lies behind us is our sin—Jesus takes it on himself. What lies ahead is a new life partnering with God in His mission. Because of Jesus’ sacrificial love, I declare to you that all of your sins are forgiven. I do so in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**OPENING HYMN “Green Book” 241**      **We Praise You, O God**

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;  
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o’er take us, you will not forsake us,  
And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: We pray.....

**C: Heavenly Father, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**HEARING FROM GOD’S WORD**

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21**

*God is able to make all things new*

This is what the LORD says— he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”

**New Testament Reading: Philippians 3:8-14**

*Paul’s encouragement to live with purpose and direction*

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 20:9-20***The parable of the workers in the vineyard*

Jesus began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written:

"'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?

"Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****SERMON SONG "Green Book" 369 vs. 1-4 only      The Church's One Foundation**

The Church's One Foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is his new creation By water and the Word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her To be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth,  
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder This world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up: "How Long?"  
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest  
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.  
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,  
That we, like saints before us, May see you face to face.

## **SERMON**

**"Who is in Charge?"**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
And born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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 everlasting. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

(We give our offerings as a sign of our lives offered to God.)

## **PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **SPECIAL GUEST**

**Chief Ken Rueben**

**CLOSING HYMN "Green Book" 424      Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us**  
*Not recorded*

## **A CLOSING BLESSING**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!**  
**C: Thanks be to God!**