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*“Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”*

*John 12: 3*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 13, 2016**

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music Ministries

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 13, 2016**

*The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading, God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!), rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.*

**PRELUDE:** *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* – Robert A. Hobby

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who brings us safely through the sea,  
who gives us water from the rock,  
who leads us into the land of milk and honey.  
**Amen.**

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

Merciful Father,  
**we have sinned against heaven and before you.**  
**We do not fully live as your sons and daughters.**  
**We use your gifts to our own ends.**  
**Forgive us and restore us,**  
**that we may resist all that draws us away from you,**  
**and be at peace with one another.**  
**Amen.**

We are reconciled to God through Christ;  
for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us.  
Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God.  
Once lost, we now are found.  
God clothes you in the finest robe of all,  
the righteousness of + Jesus Christ,  
forgiving you all your sins  
and making of you a new creation.  
**Amen.**

#### **\*GATHERING SONG #327: *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow***

#### **\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE

Leader Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows a musical score for a Kyrie. It consists of three staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is labeled 'Leader' and the second 'Assembly'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' for the first two staves, and 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' for the third staff. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with quarter and eighth notes.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Creator God,**

**you prepare a new way in the wilderness,  
and your grace waters our desert.**

**Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing,  
that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love  
given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16–21

*The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.*

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup>who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,

<sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 126: When God Restored Our Common Life**



When God re - stored our com - mon life, our hope, our lib - er - ty,  
We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seed in hard, un - yield - ing soil.

at first it seemed a pas - sing dream, a wak - ing fan - ta - sy.  
with laugh - ing hearts we car - ry home the fruit of all our toil.

A shock of joy swept o - ver us, for we had wept so long;  
We praise the One who gave the growth, with voi - ces full and strong.

The seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.  
The seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it.*



Praise to you, Lord Je-sus Christ, King of e-ter-nal glo - ry!

*Verse (cantor): Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,  
I press on toward the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:13-14)*

**\*GOSPEL READING: John 12:1-8**

*Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.*

The holy gospel according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**



**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *A Spendthrift Lover Is the Lord***

1. A spend-thrift lov-er is the Lord who nev-er counts the cost  
2. Still more is spent in blood and tears to win the hu-man heart,  
3. How shall we love this heart-strong God who gives us ev-'ry-thing,

or asks if heav-en can af-ford to woo a world that's lost.  
to o-ver-come the vio-lent fears that blow the world a-part.  
whose ways to us are strange and odd; what can we give or bring?

Our lov-er toss-es coins of gold a-cross the mid-night skies  
Be-hold the bruised and thorn-crowned face of one who bears our scars  
Ac-cep-tance of the match-less gift is gift e-nough to give.

and stokes the sun a-against the cold to warm us when we rise.  
and emp-ties out the wealth of grace that's hint-ed by the stars.  
the ve-ry act will shake and shift the way we love and live.

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope.

Holy God, in times of both joy and sorrow you call us to worship you. Bless the work of musicians, altar guilds, readers, presiding and assisting ministers, and all who serve in worship. Sustain them with your Spirit as we journey toward Holy Week. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, you made every living creature and saw that it was good. Teach us to care for the homelands of animals in the wild. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, you require mercy and justice. Bless the work of all organizations that work to restore cities and countries, especially Lutheran Volunteer Corps and Lutheran Disaster Response. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you make a way out of no way. Give your peace and vision to all who struggle with addiction, depression, grief, or illness. We pray especially for Frieda, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and all those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Make plain that in the midst of suffering, you are suffering, and that your desire is wholeness and life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you tend your flock with mercy and love. Guide the outreach ministries of this congregation. Strengthen our relationships in this community as we serve our neighbors in love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Triune God, in you there is abundant life. Deepen our union with you, that in living we may die and in dying we may live with all your saints. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN #338: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus***

*All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider,  
you have not fed us with bread alone,  
but with words of grace and life.

Bless us and these your gifts,  
which we receive from your bounty,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est.. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.  
**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**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who thirst, all who hunger,  
come and be filled with the goodness of God.

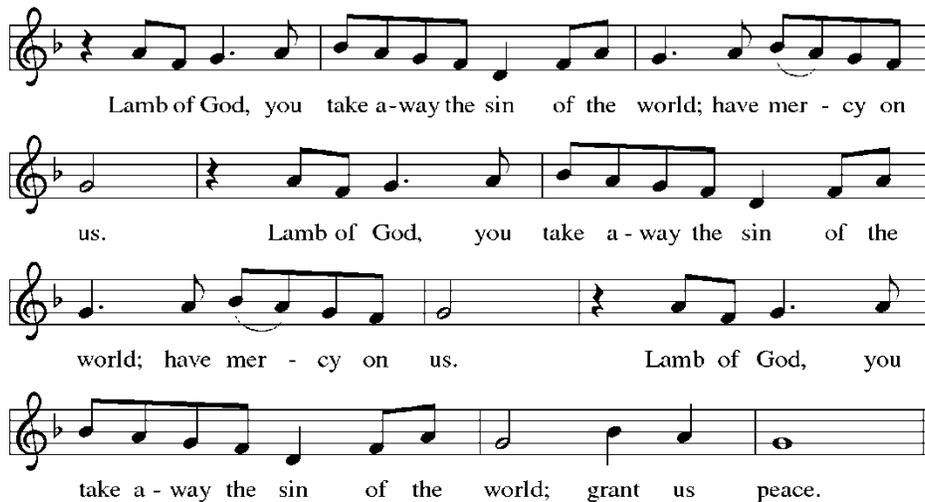
## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.*

## COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN #754: *Jesus, the Very Thought of You*

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

**Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for gathering and feeding us  
as a mother hen embraces her young.

Release us now to go on our way in these forty days,

ready to see our work as prayer,

ready to fast from complacency,

and ready to share with those in need;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **\*LENTEN BLESSING**

May you go from this place having acknowledged yourselves  
as sinners in word and deed and in what has been left undone. **Amen.**

May you know always that God's response to our repentance  
is never less than grace-filled and loving forgiveness. **Amen.**

May you be given the grace to forgive others as God has forgiven you. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #597: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less***

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *Allegro*, from Symphony IV – William Boyce**

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**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Marlene Strabel  
**Communion Assistant:** Clarence Strabel  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** John Tully  
**Attendance Last Week:** 64  
**Weekly Budgeted Expense:** \$ 3,374.14  
**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$ 37,115.50  
**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 27,463.64

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Sally Foster  
**Communion Assistant:** Valerie Cardinal  
**Acolyte:** Serafina Julio  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** Jim Ward  
**Attendance Last Year:** 62  
**Last Week's Giving:** \$ 5,814.00  
**YTD Receipts:** \$28,619.00

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