

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025



Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
920 15th Street
Perry, Iowa

PRELUDE

Introduction

Righteousness and Mercy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

As children we were taught to tell the teacher.

(Justice was dealt when we spoke up.)

As children we were taught to always be kind.

(Friends were made when we spoke love.)

As children we were taught that Zaccheus climbed a tree.

(But we cut that tree down a long time ago.)

So what are the rules for this day and age?

Can we turn black and white into shades of gray?

Do we call each other out, for righteousness sake?

Do we call each other in? Do we grab something to eat?

As always, love is somewhere in between.

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness. Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth. Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it. Fortunately, God does not act that way. No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again. So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

Merciful God,

When we fail to be righteous, show us mercy. When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right. Again and again, bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us the way.

Family of faith, when we fail to be righteous, God is merciful. When we fail to be merciful, God invites us to try again. Again and again, God moves closer to us. Again and again, God shows us the way. Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Gathering Song

ACS#979

Making Their Way



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a-ges, sin-ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o-ver, Chris-tians as-sem-ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea-son by sea-son, pil-grims, we jour-ney



heard God's call: wealth-y and poor, pow-er-ful, low-ly,
on this day, hear-ing the Word, shar-ing the Ban-quet,
till life's end, trav-el-ing light, shar-ing the rich-es,



Je-sus' dis-ci-ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor-ship, of-fer-ing thanks,
learn-ing to walk in Je-sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u-nit-ed in love,
car-ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to-geth-er grow.
to-geth-er we will come to our e-ter-nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626

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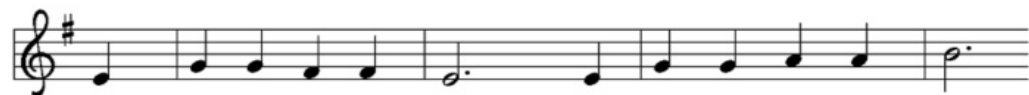
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GREETING

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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Hymn of Praise



- 1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Loving God, **week after week we return to this space, because we long to see you. Like Zacchaeus who climbed a tree to get a peek at you as you walked by, we come to this sanctuary hoping to get a peek of your goodness, of your joy, of your light. Speak to us through these ancient words. Let us get a peek of the love that lingers here. Amen.**

The First Reading is from the 6th Chapter of Micah

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will 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?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, 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?

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

The Responsive Psalm is Psalm 84

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

²**My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

³Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

⁴**Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.**

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹**For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.**

¹²O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

The Second Reading is from Chapter 2 of Ephesians

You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked,
following the course of this world,^[a] following the ruler of the power of the
air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.^[b] ³All of
us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh
and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone
else, ⁴but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he
loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive
together with Christ^[c]—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up
with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places^[d] in Christ Jesus, ⁷so
that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved
through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the
result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made
us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand
so that we may walk in them.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 19th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost." The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Righteous Mercy

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

Musical notation for the first system of the hymn 'Righteous Mercy', including a treble and bass clef, a 3/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: Since our child - hood you have taught us what is wrong and what is right
Though there's wide - ness in your mer - cy, let us not a - buse that grace
Far too of - ten we hold on - to an - ger dressed as righ - teous-nessMusical notation for the second system of the hymn, starting at measure 8. The lyrics are: Nur - tur - ing our sense of jus - tice, fuel - ing us to work and fight
Called in - to this Chris - tian jour - ney, let our lives re - flect our faith
We for - get we serve a God who calls - us to re - la - tion - shipMusical notation for the third system of the hymn, starting at measure 16. The lyrics are: Keep that fire for jus - tice burn - ing in the sha - dow of our fear
When we fal - ter and fall short of our com - mit - ment to your will
So when those who caused us harm re - pent and choose a bet - ter way

24

E - ven there your Spi - rit's stir - ring, light - ing us a path that's clear
 Hold us, wrap - ping us in your love as we work toward whole - ness still
 Spi - rit move our venge - ful hearts to choose love in - stead of wrath

Affirmation of Faith

In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers, Jesus loved by different rules. He offered mercy. He invited people to dinner. He told stories of love. He chose to see the best in others.

We believe that small acts of mercy and compassion have ripple effects in our lives. We believe that small acts of righteousness and justice are integral to a life of faith.

So like Christ, we believe in offering mercy, inviting people to dinner, telling stories of love, and choosing to see the best in others. With God's help, may it be so. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need (*especially*). May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel (*especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach*). Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray

Gracious Provider, **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 him 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'n 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

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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life.

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.

THE MEAL IS SHARED

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Communion Song



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Generous Host, **you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

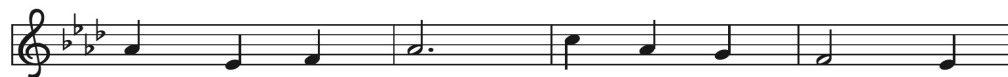
Blessing

As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle. May you know that the world is bigger than two sides. May you trust that you are made in the image of God, and therefore, you contain multitudes. So may you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is with you in the mountains, and in the valleys, and everywhere in between. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

ACS#1000

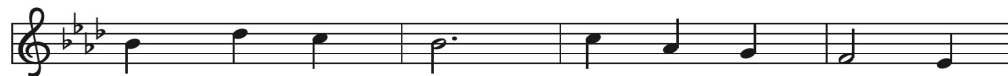
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
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DISMISSAL IN PEACE

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God!**

SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Kimberly Belken **Organist:** Linda Huntington

Worship Team Leaders: The Stezels

PRAYER CONCERNS

† Joel Samuelson † Larry Rains
† Our service men and women and their loved ones at home

THIS WEEK AT MT. OLIVET

SUN 4-6 8:45am Worship with Holy Communion
10:00am Coffee Fellowsh

SUN 4-13 8:45am Worship with Holy Communion
10:00am Coffee Fellowship

Announcements

Pastor Kimberly Belken: email is kimberlyrbelken@gmail.com

Address: 3309 McKinley St. #307, Perry, IA 50220

Office hours: are Monday and Wednesday. Note that Pastor will be at both Immanuel and Mt. Olivet on Thursdays, so if you want to see her that day, please be sure to call ahead so she can be in town.

Stuff the Altar Project: Particular needs right now are bags of rice, bags of black beans, cans of soup, and Hamburger or Tuna Helpers.

Karen Taylor's new address: 1006 Linden St Apt#417, Dallas Center, IA 50063

Phone: 515-969-6107

Synod Assembly: Mt. OLivet would like to be represented at the Synod Assembly. Please let Pastor know if you are interested as serving as delegates. We are in need of 2 people to serve as delegates. Synod assembly is Saturday, May 17 from 9:30am to 4:00pm at Grandview University.

Directory Picture Time

It is time to update our church directory in the fellowship hall and on the app. Claire Marburger will be here on Sunday, April 27 and Sunday, May 4 to take new pictures for us. Thanks Claire!

Meal buddy

Are you interested in enjoying delicious homemade meals without the hassle of cooking every day? We are excited to announce a new initiative that aims to bring meals to those who cook less often.

1. Sign Up: If you'd like to receive meals or if you'd like to contribute by sharing your homemade dishes, please let Pastor Kim or Martha Stetzel know (through email or phone)
2. Matchmaking: We will pair those who want to share their meals with congregates interested in receiving a meal a couple of times each month
2. We will pair our meal buddies and a few times a month you will connect and receive a meal, delivered, from your meal buddy

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Holy

Humor Sunday is April 27: Bring your

jokes, stories and good humor to the service that day.



*Mt. Olivet
Lent 2025*

3/5 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm at Mt Olivet
Midweek Services: 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9,
4/16 at 6:30pm at Mt Olivet
4/17 Maundy Thursday at 6pm at
Immanuel Lutheran in Ogden
4/18 Good Friday at 5:30pm at Mt Olivet

●
Perry Ministerial Services
Wednesdays at 11am (no lunch)
3/12 St. Martin's
3/19 Mt Olivet
3/26 Perry United Methodist
4/2 1st Presbyterian
4/9 1st Christian