

Judica – The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021



Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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755 In the Very Midst of Life

- 1 In the very midst of life Snares of death surround us;
Who shall help us in the strife Lest the foe confound us?
 Thou only, Lord, Thou only!
We mourn that we have greatly erred,
That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.
 Holy and righteous God! Holy and mighty God!
 Holy and all-merciful Savior! Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish In the bitter pangs of death.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

- 2 In the midst of death's dark vale Pow'rs of hell o'ertake us.
Who will help when they assail, Who secure will make us?
 Thou only, Lord, Thou only!
Thy heart is moved with tenderness, Pities us in our distress.
 Holy and righteous God! Holy and mighty God!
 Holy and all-merciful Savior! Eternal Lord God!
Save us from the terror Of the fiery pit of hell.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

- 3 In the midst of utter woe When our sins oppress us,
Where shall we for refuge go, Where for grace to bless us?
 To Thee, Lord Jesus, only!
Thy precious blood was shed to win Full atonement for our sin.
 Holy and righteous God! Holy and mighty God!
 Holy and all-merciful Savior! Eternal Lord God!
Lord, preserve and keep us In the peace that faith can give.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

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The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father, **C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** **Amen.**

Introit

Judge me, O God:

and plead my cause against an ungodly nation.

Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man:

for Thou art the God of my strength.

Oh, send out Thy light and Thy truth:

let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy holy hill.

the Gloria Patri ("Glory be to the Father ...") is omitted until Easter Vigil.

Judge me, O God:

and plead my cause against an ungodly nation.

Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man:

for Thou art the God of my strength.

Kyrie

C **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P We beseech Thee, Almighty God : mercifully to look upon Thy people; that by Thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and Holy Ghost : ever one God, world without end.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-14

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He 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." ³So 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. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then 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." ⁶And 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. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹When 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. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹²He 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." ¹³And 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. ¹⁴So 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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–15

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Tract

Psalms 129:1–4

“Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth”—
let Israel now say—

“Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,
yet they have not prevailed against me.

The plowers plowed upon my back;
they made long their furrows.”

The Lord is righteous;
he has cut the cords of the wicked.

Holy Gospel

John 8:46–59

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

G Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴⁶“Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” ⁴⁸The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

- 2 He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need
His life did spend!

- 3 Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath, And for His death
They thirst and cry.

- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease
And 'gainst Him rise.

- 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He To suffering goes That He His foes
From thence might free.

- 6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

- 7 Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days
Could gladly spend!

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Sermon

Offertory

LSB 192

☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

[Offering]

Prayer of the Church

Preface

LSB 194

☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And with thy spirit.

☐ Lift up your hearts.

☑ We lift them up unto the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

☑ It is meet and right so to do.

☐ It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

☑ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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 Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

¶ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 197

¶ The peace of the Lord be with you always. **☩ Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

☩ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

547 The Lamb

1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice? Faith sees,
believes God will provide the Lamb of price! *Refrain*

refrain: Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering. The Lamb, the
Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. *Refrain*

3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill So still,
His will On our behalf the Law to fill. *Refrain*

4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives,
forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. *Refrain*

5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song
prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. *Refrain*

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617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

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450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

- 1 O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.
- 2 How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.
- 3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.
- 4 My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.

5 What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

6 My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!

7 Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.

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655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

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Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

☩ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

☩ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

☩ and His mercy endureth forever.

☩ Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **☩** Amen.

☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

☩ Bless we the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

☩ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace. **☩** Amen, amen, amen.

454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

- 1 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay;
Tell how Christ, the world's redeemer, As a victim won the day.

- 2 Tell how, when at length the fullness Of the appointed time was
come,
He, the Word, was born of woman, Left for us His Father's home,
Blazed the path of true obedience, Shone as light amidst the gloom.

- 3 Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did His work, and met His death;
Like a lamb He humbly yielded On the cross His dying breath.

- 4 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit thine equal be;
Symbol of the world's redemption, For the weight that hung on thee!

△5 Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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JUDICA

Jesus Is Our Redemption – In the temple Jesus said, “*If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death*” (John 8:51). For Jesus came to taste death for us – to drink the cup of suffering to the very last drop in order that we might be released from its power. Clinging to Jesus' life-giving words, we are delivered from death's sting and its eternal judgment. Jesus Christ is our High Priest, who entered the Most Holy Place and with His own blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people (Hebrews 9:11–15). He is the One who was before Abraham was, and yet is Abraham's descendant. Jesus is the promised Son who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, who is bound and laid upon the altar of the cross. Jesus is the ram who is offered in our place, who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, and who wears the crown of thorns upon His head (Genesis 22:1–14). Though Jesus is dishonored by the sons of the devil, He is vindicated by the Father through the cross.

The Lord said that the Jews were unworthy of Abraham. He then proves that they are of the devil and so alien from Abraham and from God, because they hated the One who had done no wrong, and because they would not hear His word. Yet Abraham rejoiced to see My day. “My day” refers to the day of Christ’s Crucifixion, which Abraham foreshowed by the offering of the ram and of Isaac. With these words, Our Lord also shows that He approached His suffering and death willingly. And He praises Abraham who was gladdened at the Cross because this was the salvation of the world. Because of this, the Jews pick up stones and get ready to murder Him.

– St. John Chrysostom

The Meaning of *Judica*

The Fifth Sunday in Lent is traditionally known as *Judica*, which is the first Latin word of the Historic Introit assigned to this Sunday. *Judica* means “Judge” (Judica me, Deus = Judge me, O God).

This Sunday marks a transition to the most solemn portion of Lent as we journey to the cross. Beginning this week, the *Gloria Patri* (“Glory be to the Father ...”) is omitted to reflect the solemn nature of these days.

Traditionally, crosses and images of Jesus are hidden by veils after the words from our Gospel lesson, “Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.” As our mouths and ears have been fasting from the Alleluia for all of Lent, our eyes would traditionally begin a fast until we would view them once more in faith and joy at the Easter Vigil.