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Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ April 6, 2025

*Color of the Day: Purple—used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.*

Opening Hymn . . . . . #685 – Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Confession and Absolution . . . . . Page 151

*Service of the Word*

Introit . . . . . Page 152

*Ps. 3: 3-6; antiphon: Ps. 3:8*

Salvation belongs | to the LORD;\*  
your blessing be on your | people!

But you, O LORD, are a shield a- | bout me,\*

my glory, and the lifter | of my head.

I cried aloud | to the LORD,\*

and he answered me from his | holy hill.

I lay | down and slept;\*  
I woke again, for the LORD sus- | tained me.

I will not be afraid of many thousands of | people\*  
who have set themselves against me | all around.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Salvation belongs | to the LORD;\*  
your blessing be on your | people!

Kyrie . . . . . Page 152

Hymn of Praise (omitted during Lent) . . . . . Page 154

Salutation & Collect of the Day . . . . . Page 156

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading . . . . . Page 156

*Isaiah 43:16-21*

<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 forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

<sup>18</sup>“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup>Behold, I am doing 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 beasts 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 that they might declare my praise.

**Gradual** . . . . . Page 156

*Heb. 12:2*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

**Epistle Reading** . . . . . Page 156

*Philippians 3:4b-14*

<sup>4</sup>though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew 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>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>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 <sup>9</sup>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—

<sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Choral Anthem**

**Lent Verse (Return to the Lord)** . . . . . Page 157  
**Holy Gospel** . . . . . Page 157

*Luke 20:9-20*

<sup>9</sup>And he 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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup>And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. <sup>13</sup>Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ <sup>14</sup>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.’ <sup>15</sup>And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup>He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” <sup>17</sup>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?’ <sup>18</sup>“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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 up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.



**Children’s Message**

**Hymn of the Day** . . . . . #430 - *My Song Is Love Unknown*

**The Sermon** . . . . . **Pressing on Toward the Goal** ~ Philippians 3:(4b-7)8-14

*Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor’s blog at: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/> or Pastor Mendez’s blog at: <https://pastormendez.blogspot.com/>*

**Introduction**

What is important? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What should be important? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lent is \_\_\_\_\_

**Paul’s Credentials**

Paul’s life might remind us of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Paul reminds us that the most important thing \_\_\_\_\_

**Christ’s Death and Resurrection Made Ours**

God gives us \_\_\_\_\_  
 Faith is an \_\_\_\_\_

According to our justification, everything has \_\_\_\_\_.

**Our Striving**

Sanctification is \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sanctification is also \_\_\_\_\_  
 We understand. \_\_\_\_\_  
 We do good works only as. \_\_\_\_\_

**What Does This Mean? Running the Race**

Paul uses the analogy of. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection. \_\_\_\_\_  
 As we press on. \_\_\_\_\_  
 What is important? \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

**Creed** . . . . . Page 158/159

**Prayer of the Church & Offering** . . . . . Page 159

*Our First Fruits & Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God’s love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.*

**Offertory** . . . . . Page 159

*Service of the Sacrament*

**Preface** . . . . . Page 160

It is truly good, 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 overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 (Holy, Holy, Holy)** . . . . . Page 161

**Lord’s Prayer and The Words of Our Lord** . . . . . Page 162

**Pax Domini & Agnus Dei** . . . . . Page 163

**Distribution** . . . . . Page 164

*Before partaking of the Lord’s Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.*

**Distribution Hymns** . . . . . #429 – *We Sing the Praises of Him Who Died*  
 #426 – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*  
 #565 - *Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ*

**Post-Communion Canticle (Nunc Dimittis)** . . . . . Page 165

**Post-Communion Collect and Benediction** . . . . . Page 166

**Closing Hymn** . . . . . #427 - *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*