



“Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

+ *Mark 10:45*

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 21, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Over the years, various symbols have come to represent each of Jesus’ twelve apostles—emblems that remind us of an aspect of their life. The symbol often used for Saint John, one of the sons of Zebedee, is a chalice with a serpent in it.

This unflattering symbol comes from today’s Gospel, where John and his brother James ask to sit at Jesus’ right and left hands. Jesus responds, “The cup that I drink you will drink” (Mark 10:39a).

John does not understand what He asks for. But in time he will see that Jesus will drink from the cup of suffering, the cup of death, the cup filled with the sin of the world—because it is the will of the Father.

Thanks be to God that Jesus drank this cup for John and for us to give us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

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Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org



“Chalice of Saint John the Evangelist” by Hans Memling,
circa 1470-1475, Public Domain

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

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

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

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.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

C **Amen.**

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 116:1-4, 8; antiphon: Psalm 43:1

The pastor and congregation speak responsively. The antiphon is spoken by the pastor before and after the psalm.

(Antiphon) Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people,
from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!

¹ I love the LORD, because He has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

² **Because He inclined His ear to me,
therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**

³ The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴ **Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

⁸ For You have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

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

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Lent.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

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.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 31:31–34

P The Old Testament Reading is from Jeremiah, chapter 31.

³¹“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

The pastor and congregation speak responsively by half-verse.

[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 endure the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 5:1–10

P The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapter five.

¹Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ³Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. ⁴And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him,

“You are My Son,
today I have begotten You”;

⁶as He says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, ¹⁰being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Mark 10:45

Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

³²And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, He began to tell them what was to happen to Him, ³³saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴And they will mock Him and spit on Him, and flog Him and kill Him. And after three days He will rise.”

³⁵And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to Him and said to Him, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You.” ³⁶And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to Him, “Grant us to sit, one at Your right hand and one at Your left, in Your glory.” ³⁸Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹And they said to Him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰but to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴²And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

C **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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the sermon, the pastor may say:

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
 keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

C Amen.

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12

C 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.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That our heavenly Father would pour out His Holy Spirit upon us in these Lenten days; that He would write His Word on our hearts; and that we would know Him as the God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Matthew, our Synod president; Michael, our district president; Mark, our circuit visitor; and for all pastors—men who like us are beset with weakness—that they may deal gently with us; and that God would bless them and keep them faithful in the proclamation of His Word, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** That God the Father, whose Son came not to be served but to serve, help us not to lord our authority over one another in our homes, communities, and congregations, following the admonition of Christ, who so humbly serves us and all creation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all to whom our Father has given earthly authority, especially Joseph, our President, Gavin, our Governor, and Cheryl, our Mayor, that they be guarded from temptation to lord it over us improperly; and that they faithfully serve in accord with God's good and gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** That our heavenly Father would watch over, protect, and defend us through the service of others; and for all who serve in our military, law enforcement, and emergency services, that God would bless those who, like His Son, are often called to lay down their lives for others, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who suffer in our midst, that God would bless, sustain, and relieve them; and for all who walk the way of the cross with Christ, that as He learned obedience through what He suffered, so we also may know the fullness of His eternal salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who commune, that baptized with Christ's Baptism to be the people of God, we would faithfully drink from His cup in the blessed Sacrament and be sustained in our life in Him by His true body and most precious blood, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** **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.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
 Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. For all viewing from home, please come for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

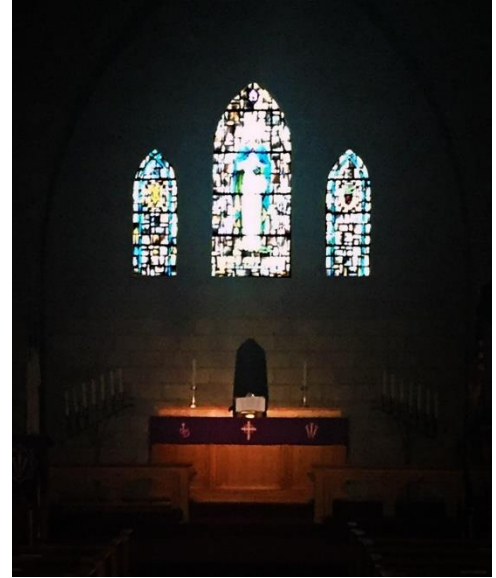
✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
 (TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

This is one of my favorite pictures from my time here at Grace. I took it during the fifth week of Lent while preparing for the midweek service back in 2017 (my first Lent and Easter season as your pastor). The sun was just setting and the last rays of daylight were shining through our rose window, casting a beautiful glow on the altar and the veiled Cross. What a beautiful reminder of where our Lord delivers to us His true body and most precious blood, soon to be given and shed at Calvary on Good Friday!

As we have come again to the fifth week of Lent, the Crosses in our church are veiled once more. It is a tradition that comes from the assigned Gospel reading in the Historic One Year Lectionary—“So [the Jews] picked up stones to throw at Him, but *Jesus hid Himself* and went out of the temple” (John 8:59, emphasis added). He hid Himself because it was not yet the hour of His Passion. But as the people of God, we observe this “hiding” as a kind of holy mourning, knowing that our Lord soon shall suffer and die. But we do not mourn as those who have no hope, knowing His glorious Resurrection awaits!



I also want to share another favorite picture, this one from last week— Leo and Sam and me on Saint Patrick’s Day! Leo loves holidays and Saint Patrick’s Day was no exception! He was so excited to celebrate that he got up at 6:30am and came out of his room to enjoy his morning pop-tart. Mom (Holly) had put his pop-tart on a green plate and when Leo saw it, he let out an ear-piercing scream of delight! It was enough to make the early morning seem not so bad. LOL!

The picture is from the new First Responders Park (what Leo calls the Firefighter Park because it is right next to El Centro Fire Station #3, up by the Walmart). We had a lot of fun running and playing before heading home for an early Saint Patrick’s Day dinner before driving to Holtville for our Midweek Lenten Service at Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church. Leo had a great time at Pastor Beyer’s church (Saint Paul’s) and I try not to take it personally when he tells me “I love Pastor Beyer’s church!” LOL.

Leo also got two new cars for Saint Patrick’s Day! If you haven’t seen them yet, I’m sure he’ll be showing them off at our “Zoom” Bible Study on Tuesday at Noon. I sure hope that you’ll join me.

This week we’ll be going through John 18:12-14, 28-38.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is “12345”

And then join me Wednesday at 7:00pm for our Midweek Prayer Service, both streaming on Facebook and in-person. This Wednesday, March 24, we’ll be at Grace. I will be our liturgist and Pastor Beyer will deliver the homily. Regardless of location, you can always watch on our Facebook page.

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church’s post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw