

Worship on March 21, 2021 –Fifth Sunday in Lent

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP # 211 – Take up your cross
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: John 12:20-33
- Sermon: To make the phrase: Only Jesus
- Communion (The Lord's Table)

We Respond

- Offering (invitation and prayer first)
- Offertory Hymn – BOP # 445 – Open our eyes, Lord

We Serve

- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us live right now and those who are worshipping God through this video. This is March 21, 2021. It is the Fifth Sunday in Lent and we will have the Lord's Table during our worship today.

. From this month, we will have two Communion a month, 1st and 3rd Sunday.

. Lent Prayer Challenge – it is to pray for a person each day during the Lent.

. From this week till Easter, we will talk about Jesus' love and sacrifice for us. The Purpose Driven Life will resume on April 11th. For Bible study with discussion questions, please stay after the worship. We will still share and pray for each other.

. If anyone wants to volunteer to participate in worship, please let me know.

. Next week is Palm Sunday, the beginning of the Passion Week. Let us remember the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ because of the love for us.

. Good Friday service is on April 2nd, @ 10:30 am via Zoom.

. Thank you for your support with your gifts. May God use us and our gifts for his kingdom.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: We are closer to the events in Jerusalem every day.

All: We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

One: When your people were slaves, you led the faithful through the waters and set them free. But we struggle with the freedom you give us.

All: We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

One: Ancient psalms of an ancient people rise in a prayerful hymn to the Lord and redeemer of all life and creation.

All: We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

One: Always you reach out to us. Yet so often we have ignored your open arms and fled from your grace and freedom—and our responsibility.

All: We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, you have loved us beyond all measure, but we continue to look for life outside of your embrace. On this journey, remind us that true freedom comes in obedience to you and following where you lead. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Praise song – BOP #211 – Take up your cross

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Creating God, Loving Son, Guiding Spirit, With springtime sun and the promise of new life, you wake us from our slumbers. We glorify your name for you are faithful to us through every season of the year and every season of life. We are grateful for your patience and persistence, drawing near to us even through the times we cannot draw near each other. Your promise of hope in Jesus Christ, drawing life out of the grip of death, means so much to us. Even as his cross looms on the horizon in this season of Lent, we praise you for Jesus' courage and compassion which bring renewal to us in the midst of our challenges. We praise you, O God, for the love that never lets us go.

Jesus, our friend and Saviour, As we ponder your sacrifice, we recognize the self-centred ways in which we lead our lives. You entrust us with the task of sharing your love in this world, yet we often we fall short. We get lost in our own plans and worries and neglect to show love, even to those right beside us. We find some people too difficult to care for. We think some people unworthy of your love and ours. Our own needs seem insurmountable and we cannot reach out to someone else. Forgive us, Lord Jesus. Renew a right spirit within us, so that we find the courage to go on and the compassion to reach out in your name.

This time, we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, Jesus said, come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gifts to you this day. Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

Passing the Peace

Prayer for Illumination:

Loving God, by the power of your Spirit, open our hearts to receive and understand your Word, speaking through the scriptures. Teach us your wisdom and reveal your truth for our lives and our times, through Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: John 12:20-33

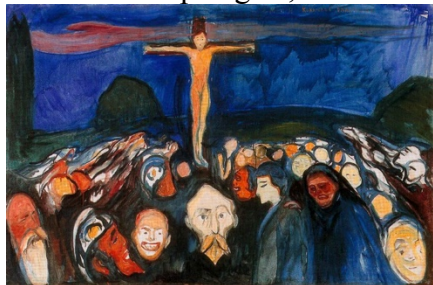
20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. 27 “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” 30 Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: To make the phrase: ONLY JESUS

Today's title is “To make the phrase: ONLY JESUS.”

Before worship begins, I showed this picture.



This is Golgotha by Edvard Munch. Golgotha is a place where Jesus was crucified. Jesus is on the cross. People are around him. One looks busy, looks like going somewhere. One looks angry, one looks sideways, one does not show his emotion from his face and one person is laughing. What does this mean to us? Jesus is hung on the cross behind these people, but these people are not mindful of Jesus. They are busy taking care of their own interests.

Today's title is “To make the phrase: only Jesus.”

Only Jesus. What does this phrase mean to you?
Only by Jesus. Only by grace.

This title came to my heart when I listened to a sermon few days ago. Jesus endured the cross to make this phrase true. **“Only by grace, we are saved.”**

Last week, in my sermon, I used today's scripture. Jesus encountered a dilemma. He's facing a challenge – the cross. He knew that it was coming. It's painful and it's shameful.

Would you like to take the cross if you were Jesus? Taking the cross means, at that time, you were an awful criminal. It is a capital punishment. It is the most painful and humiliating death imaginable. It was used to punish slaves, pirates, and enemies of the state. The victims of the crucifixion were stripped naked and put on public display while they were slowly tortured to death so that they would serve as a spectacle and an example.

Did Jesus have a dilemma? Did Jesus have a choice?

This is my imagination: When the time comes closer, Jesus becomes nervous. O boy, the cross is coming close to me. I have to be naked and have to be beaten with a whip?? Oh man, it must be so painful. I am God. But I have to take all the pain and shame?? Father God, are you serious?

I don't think Jesus actually had this in his mind. But, if I were Jesus, I would think like that. With human body, who welcomes pain? In the culture of shame and honour, who would embrace shame?

But Jesus knew that he had to be **“a single grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies. Otherwise, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit. “John 12:24**

V27, “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – ‘Father, save me from this hour’?” No, -- Jesus answered immediately – it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

John 14:6, Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus had to become the grain that falls into the earth and dies. Jesus had to become the way between us and God. Jesus had to become the truth, the foundation of our faith, by reconciling the relationship between us and God. Jesus had to become the life by overcoming the power of death.

Otherwise, there's no meaning in our faith. Jesus knew it and he walked his way. He fulfilled the purpose he came to the earth.

By fulfilling his purpose, he completed the promises from the Bible. He fulfilled all the prophets from the Old Testaments and actualized the all the promises from the Bible. And he made this phrase true: ONLY BY GRACE OF JESUS. ONLY JESUS.



Where in this picture are we standing?

Do you have Jesus in your heart? Do we have Jesus in our hearts?

How do we have him? Only by grace of Jesus.

Who is the Lord of our lives? Jesus Christ!

What is the reason for our lives? Jesus Christ!

Who is the head of the church? Jesus Christ!

Who is the subject of all our worship? Jesus Christ!

Who is our true hope? Jesus Christ!

Who is the power to overcoming the power of this world? / Who is the one will never leave us alone? / Who hears all our prayers? / Who renews our souls? / Who gives us the strength to live on? / Who is the one we should lift our voices in praise till our voices are gone? / Who is the reason that we can face wilderness? / Who is the reason we can face tomorrow? / Who is the one thinking about me all day long? / Whom is the one we want to know more and more? / Whom is the one we want to love more and more day by day? / Who is the purpose of education? / Whom all the leaders should know? / Who is the one praying for me right now and never stops? / Who is the one who shed his blood and cleanse my sins? / Who is the one chose the cross for me? / Who is the one who love me the most? / Who is my king? / Who is my life? / Who is my glory? / Who is coming back to bring me home? IT'S JESUS.

Jesus is our only way. Jesus is our only truth. Jesus is our only life. Let us have Jesus in our hearts.

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God! That is who you are! And you are mindful of us. You love us so much that you came in human body. You had to shrink yourself and limit your power to be with us. The most powerful and able God gave up your everything to love us and save us. Wow. How great is your love for us. Thank you. Jesus Christ the Lord, help us call your name all through our lives. We worship you and we praise you with all that we are and all that we have. Be glorified! In Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God, Amen.

The Lord's Supper – Communion

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took bread, blessed, broke it and gave to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table. Our Saviour invites all those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. "O taste and see that the Lord is good."

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) **(Please say BOLD print together)**

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we give you thanks and praise. Amid shouts of Hosanna, your Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem for the redemption of the world. Betrayed by friends, rejected by all, Jesus accepted the shame of the cross. By his suffering and death, he

defeated the power of death becoming for us the source of eternal life. How wonderful are your ways, almighty God. How marvellous is your name, O Holy One. You alone are God. Therefore with apostles and prophets, and the great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise.

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: We praise you, most holy God. You gave your Son Jesus to give us life. Jesus, you are truly the eternal God. You took flesh and became human for us and for our salvation. We give you thanks and praise for your incarnation, for your life on earth, for your sufferings and death upon the cross, for your resurrection from the dead, for your glorious return to God's right hand until you come again in glory.

Gracious God, the sacrifice of your Son Jesus destroyed the power of sin and death. By raising him to life, you give us life for evermore. Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE

When we break the bread, it is a sharing in the body of Christ. (BREAD)

When we bless the cup, it is a sharing in the blood of Christ (CUP)

The gifts of God for the people of God (BOTH)

Communion of the people (Partake all together) Prepare the elements and take them.

"This is the body of Christ broken for you." (Let us take it)

"This is the blood of Christ shed for you." (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you Jesus for your love for us. Thank you for saving us and thank you for reconciling the broken relationship between God and us. We call out your name of Jesus. Jesus. It is the most beautiful name in all the earth. It is the name we will sing and give all the praise we can.

We honoured your name by remembering what you did for us. Your body was broken for us and your precious blood was shed for us. Help us clothe ourselves with Christ. We want to see with your eyes and we want to hear with your ears. Use our hands and feet to your plans and purposes. Fill our hearts with your name and let our lives display your amazing love. Thank you. In Jesus Christ precious and beautiful and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Jesus reminds us that a seed surrenders its life to the ground in order to bear much fruit. What we surrender to God in our offering will also bear much fruit in the world, for the sake of Christ, our Lord. As springtime begins, sow the seeds of God's love as you offer your gifts to God. Let us pray.

Offering prayer:

God of growth and new life, with our gifts we offer you our thanks and praise for the promise of spring and the promise of resurrection in Christ Jesus. Bless our gifts and through them, accomplish more than we can ask or imagine, as they bear fruit in the world you love, through Christ, our Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen. // Let the Lord's offering be received as we sing our hymn.

Offering – BOP # 445 – Open our eyes, Lord

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. What's your name? I sometimes confuse my children's names. I mistakenly call different names. I sure love them, but I still make mistakes. But, Jesus, the most glorious and highest King of the whole universe, knows your name. He knows each one's name and never makes mistakes. We may forget Jesus in our lives, but Jesus never forgets about us. He's always mindful of us.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions:

1. **ONLY. What can be described with word ONLY?**
2. **What reminds of Jesus in my daily life?**
3. **In what situation, am I willing to be a grain that falls in the earth and dies? Or when I do not? Or when do I feel the pressure?**