

\*\*\*\*\*

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT  
2023

MARCH 26,

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC + WELCOME

**SONG:** "I Stand in Awe" (Mark Altrogge)

1. You are beautiful beyond description,  
Too marvelous for words,  
Too wonderful for comprehension,  
Like nothing ever seen or heard.  
Who can grasp Your infinite wisdom,  
Who can fathom the depth of Your love?  
You are beautiful beyond description,  
Majesty enthroned above.

*Chorus:*

And I stand, I stand in awe of You,  
I stand, I stand in awe of You;  
Holy God, to Whom all praise is due,  
I stand in awe of You.

2. You are beautiful beyond description,  
Yet God crushed You for my sin;  
In agony and deep affliction,  
Cut off that I might enter in.  
Who can grasp such tender compassion,  
Who can fathom this mercy so free?  
You are beautiful beyond description,  
Lamb of God who died for me. (*Chorus*)

*Ending*.....I stand in awe of You, I stand.... in awe....of You.  
(C. 1987 Sovereign Grace Praise Used by permission. CCLI #522460)

## INVOCATION

LENTEN SELF-EXAMINATION:

P. What is the Ninth Commandment?

**C. You shall not covet Your neighbor's house.**

P. What is coveting?

**C. Coveting is having a sinful desire for anyone or anything that belongs to our neighbor.**

- P. What coveting does God forbid in the Ninth Commandment?
- C. We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or try to get it in a way which only appears right.**
- P. What does God require of us in the Ninth Commandment?
- C. We should be content with what God has given us and assist our neighbor in keeping what God has given him.**
- P. What is the Tenth Commandment?
- C. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**
- P. What coveting does God forbid in the Tenth Commandment?
- C. According to this command we should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him.**
- P. What does God require of us in the Tenth Commandment?
- C. We should be content with the helpers God has given us and encourage our neighbor's helpers to be faithful to them.**
- P. What does God particularly impress upon us in the last two Commandments?
- C. In God's sight evil desire, or coveting, is indeed sin and deserves condemnation. For God wants us to love Him and to have holy desires.**

#### CONFESSION OF SIN:

- P. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

**C. The almighty and merciful Lord grants you pardon, forgiveness of all your sins, and everlasting peace in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.**

P. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**C. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I too pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P. The almighty and merciful Lord grants you pardon, forgiveness of all your sins, and everlasting peace in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C. Thanks be to our gracious and merciful God! Amen.**

THE VENITE: (*Sung, LSB p. 220*)

O come, let us sing to the Lord,

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving,

Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God

And a great king above all gods.

The deep places of the earth are in His hand;

The strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, for He made it,

And His hand formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down,

Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

For He is our God,

And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very

dry. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’” <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

#### **EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:11-19**

<sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, <sup>14</sup> because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit

himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. <sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

## CHILDREN'S LESSON

RESPONSE: (*Spoken*)

P. We have an advocate with the Father;

**C. Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

P. He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**C. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.**

**SONG:** “The Power of the Cross” (*Keith Getty, Stuart Townsend*)

1. Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day.

Christ on the road to Calvary.

Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then,

Nailed to a cross of wood.

Chorus:

This the pow'r of the cross. Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame, bore the wrath; We stand forgiven at the cross.

2. Oh to see the pain written on Your face,

Bearing the awesome weight of sin.

Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,

Crowning Your bloodstained brow. (*Chorus*)

3. Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath.

Quakes as its Maker bows His head.

Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life.

“Finished!” the vict'ry cry. (*Chorus*)

4. Oh to see my name written in the wounds,

For through Your suff'ring I am free.

Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,

Won through Your selfless love!

Chorus 2:

This the pow'r of the cross. Son of God slain for us.

What a love, what a cost; We stand forgiven at the cross.  
This the pow'r of the cross. Son of God slain for us.

What a love, what a cost; We stand forgiven at the cross.

(C.2005 Thankyou Music Used by permission CCLI #522460)

SERMON: John 11:45-43 "Better Him Than Me!"

## THE OFFERING

**HYMN:** "We Praise You and Acknowledge You..." (LSB #941)

1. We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,  
The Father Everlasting, by all the earth adored.  
To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,  
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:  
"O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!"
2. The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;  
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.  
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,  
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:  
"O all majestic Father, Your true and only Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Comforter forever Three in One!"
3. You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,  
Yet you, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev'ryone:  
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin's womb,  
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;  
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve,  
You opened heavn's kingdom to all who would believe.
4. You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God's right hand,  
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.  
We know that You will come as our Judge that final day,  
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;  
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,  
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

## PRAYERS

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

## BLESSING

### **HYMN:** "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" *(LSB #761)*

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure:  
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
2. Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring;  
Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

*(Public Domain)*