



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 2021

and desires of our hearts, you provide for us a Great High Priest, in the person of your Son, who imparts a remedy for our misdeeds. For this greatest gift of love for us, how can we respond, but in songs and shouts of praise? No matter how desperately we may stray into sin, or what we might chase in vain along the way, we trust in your unfailing presence and care under the Mercy who is Christ our Lord.

The closer we draw to Jerusalem and to his final confrontation with earthly powers, the less we like what we see in Jesus, O God. He's saying dangerous things about death and life; we certainly don't want to be around when the reckoning with authorities come – as it surely must, not only in Jesus' day, but also in our own. Forgive us, we pray, for our insistence upon following the rosy cross of our fantasies, rather than the executioner's cross of your Son. Help us to find new courage and strength, new life amid death, and to take up whatever our cross may be; under the mercy of him, who died that we might live, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

From the Major Prophets: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,^[a] says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I

"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus^[a] offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

Offertory Invitation

There are many "stones" in our lives that must be rolled away if we are to break the bonds of death and enter fully into life. Sometimes our possessions are gigantic boulders. Sometimes our lack of basic necessities keeps us from focusing on anything but our own want. We need not be bound or feel locked away from life's new possibilities. God has granted us gifts to share, that all might know the abundant life in Christ Jesus.

Offertory

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (Gilbert Martin)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood,

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love, so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life my all! Amen!

Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels: 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^[a] to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Sermon "Dying to Life: An Image of God's Grace"
 Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Hymn *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"* (Rathbun)
 (see last page)

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude *"Prelude in C Minor"* (J.S. Bach)

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Kyle Taylor

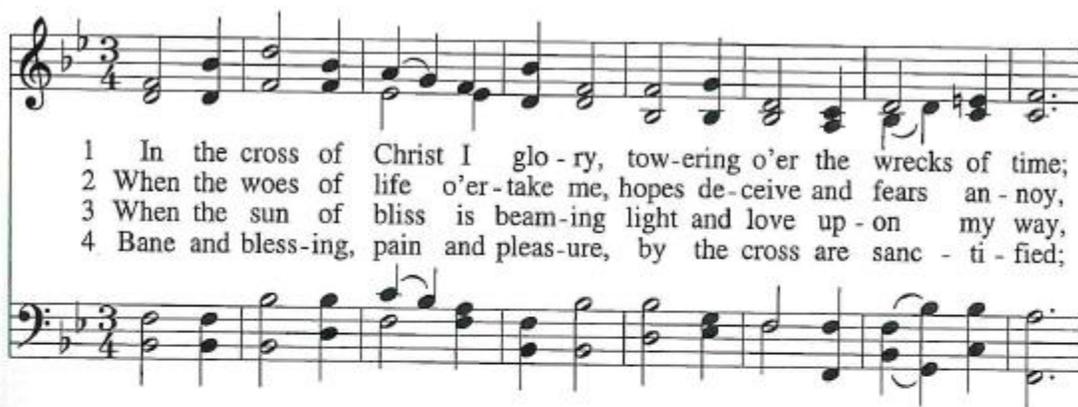
Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

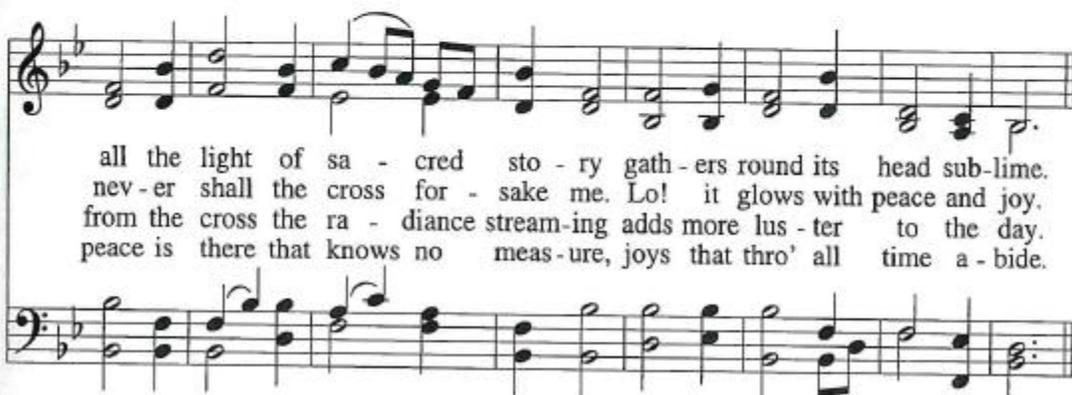
Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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In the Cross of Christ I Glory 264



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow - ering o'er the wrecks of time;
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de - ceive and fears an - noy,
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and love up - on my way,
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and pleas - ure, by the cross are sanc - ti - fied;



all the light of sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
nev - er shall the cross for - sake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
from the cross the ra - dianc e stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
peace is there that knows no meas - ure, joys that thro' all time a - bide.

WORDS: John Bowring (1792-1872)
MUSIC: Ithamar Conkey (1815-1867)

RATHBUN
8.7.8.7.