

# WHEN GOD SUFFERS

COMFORT FROM A GOD WHO  
SUFFERS WITH US AND FOR US

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Dear Jesus, I thank you for the new covenant you came to establish. The old covenant you made with your Old Testament people was filled with rules and regulations and required constant sacrifice. But in this new covenant, you have kept all the laws and rules for me. Your death served as the final once and for all sacrifice. Your new covenant of grace comes with the assurance "It is finished." Grant that I may always embrace you and this new covenant in faith. Amen.

### ✠ The Order of Service ✠

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

### THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (Psalm 51:1-4)

**M:** Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sins.

**C:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

**M:** Jesus invites you to look away from yourself and to Him. He lived for you and he died for you. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are holy and righteous, blameless and pure, children of God without fault, His precious saints.

**C:** Amen

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 5:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered <sup>9</sup> and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

## **GOSPEL LESSON: John 12:20-33**

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

<sup>27</sup> "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup> “The time is coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah.

<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their forefathers  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,”

declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel  
after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,

and they will be my people.

<sup>34</sup> No longer will a man teach his neighbor,  
or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,”

declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more.”

## SERMON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

“God’s Strikes a Deal with You”

## THE SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES CREED

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

M: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## **PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C:** 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.