

LENT



*the darkness of despair*

**Mid-Week Lent 5**  
**March 13, 2024**  
**“The Darkness of Despair”**

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.**

**HYMN**

What Is the World to Me

**730**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS – Psalm 13**

- P: Holy and Almighty God, I confess to You that sometimes I feel like the psalmist David who said,  
C: **“How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?**  
P: How long will You hide Your face from me?  
C: **How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?**  
P: How long will my enemy triumph over me?  
C: **Look on me and answer, Lord my God.”**  
P: Holy and Almighty God, forgive me for the times I feel like You are not with me.  
C: **Forgive my lack of faith. Forgive my feelings of despair. Forgive my times when I lose hope.**

*(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)*

- P: The psalmist David also says, “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:17-18). Therefore, the Lord is merciful to you. He hears Your concerns and He comforts you in times of despair. He is with you and will not forsake you. He also forgives you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, O Lord,  
C: **“I trust in Your unfailing love;**  
P: my heart rejoices in Your salvation.  
C: **I will sing the Lord’s praise, for He has been good to me.”**

**PSALM OF THE DAY – PSALM 36**

*(all sing)*

*Faithful, just and Righteous Lord*

*Priceless is your love.*

*Faithful, just and Righteous Lord*

*Priceless is your unfailing love.*

**I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked:  
There is no fear of God before their eyes.  
In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin.  
The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful; they fail to act wisely or do good.  
Even on their beds they plot evil;  
they commit themselves to a sinful course and do not reject what is wrong.  
Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.**

*(all sing)*

*Faithful, just and Righteous Lord*

*Priceless is your love.*

*Faithful, just and Righteous Lord*

*Priceless is your unfailing love.*

**Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep.  
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.  
How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!**

*(all sing)*

*Faithful, just and Righteous Lord*

*Priceless is your love.*

*Faithful, just and Righteous Lord*

*Priceless is your unfailing love.*

**People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.  
Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.  
May the foot of the proud not come against me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.  
See how the evildoers lie fallen—thrown down, not able to rise!**

*(all sing)*

*Faithful, just and Righteous Lord*

*Priceless is your love.*

*Faithful, just and Righteous Lord*

*Priceless is your unfailing love.*

**Glory be to the Father  
Glory to the Son  
Glory be to the Spirit  
The great Three in One**

<b>FIRST READING</b>		<b>1 Kings 19:3-18</b>
<b>SONG 11:00a</b>	What Wondrous Love is This (stanzas 1-3)	<b>543</b>
<b>7:00p</b>	What Wondrous Love is This	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade ESM Choir</b>
<b>GOSPEL READING</b>		<b>Mark 14:32-42</b>

**HYMN** Alas and Did My Savior Bleed **437**  
(stanzas 1-5)

**SERMON** "The Darkness of Despair" **Pastor Goff**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING SONG 7:00p** Grace Greater Than Our Sin **Strings Ensemble**

**POETRY READING** Despair Is the Cruellest **Gloria Doty High**

**EIGHTH GRADE CONFIRMATION TESTIMONY**

*Adriana Briney* whose confirmation verses are Proverbs 3:5-6

**PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

- P: May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.
- C: **Lord have mercy.**
- P: May Christ, who bore your sin in His body on the tree, heal you by His wounds.
- C: **Amen.**
- P: May the Holy Spirit, who leads you into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.
- C: **Amen.**
- P: And may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C: **Amen.**

**HYMN** God Loved the World So That He Gave **571**  
(stanzas 1-6)

**SILENT PRAYER**

O Lord, my God, thank You that Your mercies are new to me every morning. Great is Your faithfulness. Amen.