

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Rev. Kevin Pleas  
Online Worship  
March 21, 2021

**PRELUDE** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” – arranged by Gunther Martin Gottschalk Adam Peithmann

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Kevin Pleas

**INTROIT** “Seek Ye First” by Karen Lafferty

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**People: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

Leader: We desire to live in God’s house and to seek God in his holy temple.

**People: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**People: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this hour of worship and always.**

## OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**We do indeed bow down before you and sing you our praises, O God. You are the shepherd who tends to our needs. You gather us from among different races and cultures and blend us into a people who radiate your love. You show deference toward us as you stoop to hear both our pleas and our praise. We wear proudly the mantle of your grace and mercy, as we worship you humbly in thought, word, and deed. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN # 95** “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Barbara Papagian

## TIME OF SILENCE

## OUR 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE** “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” by Ken Medema

**MUSICAL OFFERING** “Lenten Medley” arranged by Christine D. Anderson Terri Pattee, handbells

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Pip Adams

John 3:1-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone

be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

"Changing Lives: Nicodemus"

Rev. Kevin Pleas

**CLOSING HYMN #254**

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

**CLOSING WORDS**

**BENEDICTION (Unison)**

**As it is a gift that we may serve God,  
Let us now go forth, accepting the ministry  
To which each one is surely called,  
Rejoicing in the blessing of our creator God,  
Continually renewed in the life of Jesus Christ,  
And hoping in the presence of the Holy Spirit.  
Go in peace. Be led fourth in joy.  
Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** "The Strong-Tower Postlude (A Mighty Fortress)" – arranged by Matthias Nagel

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**Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.**

**Opening Hymn No. 95**

**“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”**

5. Let every creature rise with song; honor and praise to Christ belong angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

1. Jesus shall reign where’er the sun does its successive journeys run; his love shall spread from shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2. To Christ shall endless prayer be made, and endless praises crown his head; his name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

3. People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song; and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

4. Blessings abound where’er he reigns; all prisoners leap to lose their chains; the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

5. Let every creature rise with song; honor and praise to Christ belong angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

**Prayer Response**

**Hymn No. 305**

**“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”**

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

**Closing Hymn No. 254**

**“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”**

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will to do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.