

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, PONCA HILLS

A New Thing in This Old World

April 6, 2025



AS WE GATHER

There is a hymn that refers to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, calling it an “old, old story” (“I Love to Tell the Story” by Arabella Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911). The fact that God’s plan of salvation began thousands of years ago, and that the Bible is the record of events in ancient history, does not mean that old equals irrelevant. Today, God says through His prophet Isaiah, “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old” (Isaiah 43:18). But before you throw away your old Bible, your old catechism, or your old hymnal, listen up! “Behold, I am doing a new thing; . . . do you not perceive it?” (v. 19). In the pattern of the exodus of old and the deliverance from the Babylonian captivity of old, and as “the old rugged cross” of Christ made His resurrection from the dead possible, the “new thing” of God’s doing today is all about freeing you from the slavery of sin, death, boredom, worry, and fear; re-creating you “that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness” (explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed, Small Catechism); renewing your life today by the forgiveness of your sins and in the sure and certain hope of new bodies for old in the new creation that awaits, as that old hymn concludes,

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

THE WELCOME

THE HYMN “I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His
love;
I love to tell the story, because I know ’tis
true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would
do.

- *Refrain:*
I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, more wonderful it
seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden
dreams;
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me,
And that is just the reason I tell it now to
thee.

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat,
What seems each time I tell it more
wonderfully sweet;
I love to tell the story, for some have never
heard

The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 43:1; Psalm 126:3*

Pastor: But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, . . . "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

People: I have called you by name, you are Mine."

Pastor: The LORD has done great things for us;

People: we are glad.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Isaiah 43:1, adapt.

Pastor: As the Lord God delivered His chosen people from Egyptian slavery through the sea yet on dry ground, and as He delivered His chosen people from their captivity in Babylon of old, so has He now delivered His chosen people to this day from slavery to sin and death through the cross and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Remembering that your Holy Baptism is still

a present reality today, let us return to the Lord our God in true repentance and faith.

People: Lord God, we confess that we have sinned against You and have fallen back into our old ways of neglecting You and our love for our neighbor. Create a new heart and spirit within us and make us to be Your new creation by faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live under Him and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness both today and forever.

Pastor: But now thus says the LORD, He who created you and formed you, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine." Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 3:3–6; antiphon: v. 8*

People: Salvation belongs to the LORD; Your blessing be on Your people!

Choir: But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and He answered me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

People: 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.

Salvation belongs to the LORD; Your blessing be on Your people!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty God, You have delivered Your chosen people of old from all manner of captivity of body and soul. According to Your promise, make us to be Your chosen people today, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for Your own possession, that we may proclaim Your praises to one another and to the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 43:16–21* (“Behold, I am doing a new thing.”)

Reader: Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Philippians 3:(4b–7) 8–14*
(Righteousness through faith in Christ)

Reader: If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward

the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Luke 20:17b*

Pastor: The stone that the builders rejected
People: **has become the cornerstone.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 20:9–20* (The parable of the wicked tenants)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twentieth chapter.
People: **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

And he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?"

Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "My Song Is Love Unknown" *LSB 430*

My song is love unknown
My Savior's love to me
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be
Oh, who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow
But men made strange, and none
The longed for Christ would know
But oh, my friend, My friend indeed
Who at my need His life did spend!

Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run
He gave the blind their sight
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

 O God, our Creator and Redeemer, we give thanks to You for Your whole world of nature and that You continue to sustain it in summer and winter, in seedtime and harvest, through times of trouble and in times of peace. We pray for peace continually that we may attend to Your

Word and worship and proclaim Your majesty. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We give You thanks especially for our redemption from sin and everlasting death. Though even as You count us as Your redeemed people, still we struggle to be faithful. In Your mercy, You remain true to Your promises and continue to provide the everlasting invitation, salvation, and healing through the forgiveness of sins for the sake of Christ. Bless and empower Your whole church on earth with steadfast faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for all those in the authority of government, that they may be guided in the way of truth and justice, providing for the peace and safety of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray also for all who are ill, the hungry, those in bondage, and all who travel. Grant that the prayers of all who turn to You in their need graciously come before You, so that they may receive Your help, provision, and comfort. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, we adore You as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and with the whole church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. For all Your works of mercy of old, we praise You. For Your gifts of deliverance, renewal of life and hope, and the promise of eternal life through the cross and resurrection of Your Son, we praise You. Hear us for His sake, living and reigning with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His

blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you.

This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” *LSB 575*

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name
On Christ the solid rock, I stand
All other ground is sinking sand

When darkness veils His lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In ev’ry high and stormy gale
My anhor holds within the veil.
On Christ the solid rock, I stand
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way
He then is all my hope and stay
On Christ the solid rock, I stand
All other ground is sinking sand.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

People: and His mercy endureth forever.

Pastor: We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have made us Your own people, a new creation in Jesus Christ, our Lord. By His body and blood You have strengthened our faith, thus enabling us to tell forth Your praises. Enlighten our paths and guide our steps that we may live according to Your gracious will in faithfulness to You and love for one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN [Holy Forever](#) [Chris Tomlin](#)

(Holy) (Holy)

A thousand generations falling down in worship

To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe

Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Your name is the highest

Your name is the greatest

Your name stands above them all

All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all
And the angels cry holy
All creation cries holy
You are lifted high, holy
Holy forever
If you've been forgiven and if you've been
redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His
name
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen
And the angels cry holy
All creation cries holy
You are lifted high, holy
Holy forever
Hear Your people sing holy
To the King of kings, holy
You will always be holy
Holy forever
Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all
Jesus
Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all (oh,
stands above)
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all
And the angels cry holy
All creation cries holy
You are lifted high, holy
Holy forever (we cry holy, holy, holy)
Hear Your people sing (we will sing) holy
To the King of kings (holy), holy (holy is the
Lord)
You will always be holy
Holy forever

You will always be holy
Holy forever

Our thanks to those who serve today:

Elder	Randy Woosley
Acolyte	Lilly Swinarski
Usher	Jerry Wilson/Dan Lindblad
Reader	Tim Steyskal
Altar Guild	Sue Ketzler

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the
Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

OUR MISSION:

We are St John Lutheran Church, forgiven
and united through faith in Jesus Christ. We
seek to grow in our relationship with Him
through worship, Bible study and Prayer and
reaching out with His love and message to
our neighbors.

Church Clean up is set for Saturday, April 12
at 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday service is April 17 at 7:00
pm. *Pre-Service Potluck at 5:45pm*

Good Friday service is April 18 at 7:00 p,

Easter Worship is April 20 at 9:00 am.
*Easter Breakfast after Worship in Fellowship
Hall.*

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128500 gives us permission to use contemporary music