



Perley Lutheran Parish
March 21st, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Gathering Spoken Hymn: Lift High the Cross

Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come Christians follow where our captain trod,

Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,

As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.

Welcome and Announcements

- Welcome to the Vettleson Family for Miss Paxley's Baptism
- Council meeting today following the service
- Lenten Services at 7 at Kirkebo this week.
- Please continue to support the congregations financially – hard with not being together for so long to keep on top of everything so offering can be brought in person, done on-line or mailed into the office.
- Reach out to Pastor or the church office if you need anything
- Food Shelf open Thursdays from 5-7 at Kirkebo in Perley

Confession and Forgiveness

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. Fountain of living water,

C pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

L Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, our sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. Amen.

Prayer of the Day: **O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that though life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Baptism of Paxley Grace Vettleson

Daughter of Amanda and Derick Vettleson and sister of Kaiza Vettleson. Sponsors Jessica Vettleson and Jacob Steckler.

We begin with the greatest baptismal story of all:

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

As I’ve mentioned before – one of the greatest traditions that we had at my church growing up was a song that was sung every time someone was baptized in our church. Well we can’t sing yet but I thought it would be wonderful if we all spoke the words of the song together. Let’s read “Welcome to the family” as printed in your bulletin:

Welcome to the family
We’re glad that you have come to share your life with us
As we grow in love. And may we always be to you
What God would have us be, a family always there
To be strong and to lean on

It was a song about joining the congregation and the kingdom of God. In just a few minutes Paxley will become part of the greatest family of all – the family of God. Looking at this - we see the font here filled with water and it really doesn’t look all that special yet does it. The promises and the seal of the cross however – that is part of baptism - mean so very much to God and lead us all to the promises that we receive – a promise of never-ending, unconditional love and life everlasting.

So should we begin?

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Who presents Paxley Grace Vettleison to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism?

Parents reply: We do

In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

Parents & Sponsors reply: **We do**

I ask you now to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

Parents & Sponsors reply: **We renounce them**

Do you believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Holy Spirit?

Reply: **We do**

Congregation – let us declare our faith together in the words of the apostle's creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Paxley Grace Vettleson – I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Paxley, child of God, you have been sealed by the holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Let us pray:

God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thank for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life though this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Paxley; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. Amen

Candle – we give this baptismal candle to remind us of God’s light and Paxley’s light in this world.

Let your light so shine before man that they may see your good works and glorify the Father in heaven.

Let us all welcome Paxley:

We welcome you into the Lord’s family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God. Amen

Psalm 51:1-12 (read responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.** Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. **You desire truth in the inward being therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.** Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.** Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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. 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, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Holy Gospel according to John 12:20-33. **Glory to you O Lord**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 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. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“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. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message – *flowers, flour, grain, or other plants of some sort*

What do I have here? These are some plants. Have you ever planted something? Do you know how plants work? Well, with most plants like this, you have to bury the seeds in the ground, and of course water them and provide a spot with sunlight, in order for them to grow up. After they've gone underground, they sprout and flower and they come up and bloom! Then they provide food, or flowers, or even trees. This applies to things like fruits and vegetables, as well as grain. Grain (*hold up the grain, if using*) has these little kernels that sort of have to die in a sense before they go into the ground. But once they die, they come back up and produce big fields of wheat that can feed people!

Why are we talking about plants? Well, because they remind me of something else—*someone* else, in fact. Can you think of someone who died and was buried, and then came back to life? Jesus, of course! In fact, before He died, He used this plant analogy. Some people were asking about who He was and what His purpose was. They wanted to see and know more about Jesus. Jesus explained that in order to be glorified and lifted up, He was going to first have to suffer and die. He described how grain has to fall to the earth and die in order to bear fruit, and how He would have to be “lifted from the earth” (on the cross) in order to draw us to Him.

Jesus gave up His life and died, and because of that we can have life forever with Him. We know that He gave Himself over to be killed, and He did that for us. Because of His death, everyone in the whole world has access to eternal life! People were sometimes confused or uncertain about who Jesus was or why He came. They certainly didn't think that death could bring life, but we know the wonderful truth of what His death means for us! He didn't stay dead. He rose again and lives forever. And so will we, if only we believe!

Now, there are sometimes that being a Christian might mean that we have to make sacrifices. We may live a little differently than others, and might have to do things that are hard. But we give up those little things to get something much greater. Jesus gave His life, and we benefit in great ways. If we have to go through tough things, we know Jesus is with us. And we know that in the end, God will help us and bless us, as He already has in Christ! We can pray for help and ask God to remind us of the wonderful life that awaits us in Jesus. Why don't we say a prayer right now?

Let us pray: Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus. He gave His life to give us life. Help us to be willing to make sacrifices for you and thank you that we have new life in Christ. Thank you for your love. We love you, God! In Jesus's name, Amen!

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

I was watching a talk show on TV the other morning and I honestly don't even remember who the person was interviewing – it wasn't someone that I actually really knew – but obviously the guy is a pretty big deal right now because they were talking about how famous he was now and how he was surprised at it all. I remember hearing about Michelle Obama telling about when they first realized they were moving into the White House how she was concerned about being in the spotlight and how she was concerned about losing their freedom and privacy while they were there. Sure in both of these instances they were very grateful for all of the opportunities they were receiving for the position and place they were at, but they also had come to realize that the fame, the jobs that they were doing, did come with a pit of a cost.

The disciples were excited I can imagine to be part of Jesus' inner circle – the “in” crowd and the believed power and prestige they were going to receive because of their connection to him. These early Christians – as we have learned in John's account of what was going on – basked in the idea and the knowledge that they were experiencing God's love and grace first hand. The words that Jesus spoke – according to John – were not so much about the power and the notoriety but more

about the sobering price that Jesus was going to pay for us and therefore the actual cost of those following as disciples.

Our story takes place in the early part of Holy Week. No one really knows exactly when Jesus realizes just what cost he is going to have to pay for us as the Son of God. We would think he had figured it out by the time he got to Jerusalem and in our passage Jesus says *“when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”* He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.” He references what is to come and also references a story from the Old Testament.

The Israelites had not only sinned against God but also rebelled from Him. As punishment, God sent poisonous snakes that bit many – remember we just heard about Moses the other night during our Lenten service – and how Moses was told what to do and how to help. He was told to take a snake and place it on a pole for all to look at when they were bitten. If they looked at the snake on the pole they would be healed. And just like that portrayal and vision, Jesus too would be lifted up on the cross to heal us as well. If we looked to him for deliverance from our own evil and sin then we too would be saved.

Jesus’ death and resurrection provided us with salvation, created a new relationship between us and God and defeated evil forces of sin and death and the devil. The kingdom of God would be established – but at a great price for the Son of God. And that was something that the disciples and early Christians soon realized was the cost of who and where they were.

While most of us would only be able to reference Jesus when asked about life, death and resurrection, Jesus is pointing out the fact that this process is one that is part of life. As I mentioned with the children, that process is something that is done each and every day in the growing of things – seeds fall to the ground and die only to come back to life. Seeds die – go dormant – and then sprout and produce abundance. Death and resurrection happen each and every day – it’s just the fact of life.

We know that’s true for us – we all know some who have gone through tragedy and loss only to find what is on the other side of it is better than what one had before. Some of us have left jobs or family members to move on to something else and the joy of what came of it was something that can be so amazing. The promise of resurrection can empower us too as we remember what is to come AFTER we go through the death.

Jesus also told his disciples *“Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”* We’ve all had to say goodbye to loved ones and let’s be honest, understanding what Jesus is saying – knowing the truth of his words – still does not make the process of death, even with the process of resurrection, any easier. Losing a love one doesn’t hurt any less knowing that they have gone to a better place. That they have life ever-lasting – that loss hurts even with that glorious promise of eternal life with God.

Facing death wasn’t easy for Jesus either I’m sure – even though he too knew what it would bring and how much he would be giving to those who believed. He knew resurrection was on the other side of death but he admits himself in our gospel that he is troubled with this whole idea. And not just in John’s accounts – in other gospels we even hear the words “struggling mightily with the terror that confront him.” Even though he is troubled though, he moves forward to the cross with only one request. The request that he be glorified and God his Father assures him that it will indeed be so.

Jesus knew that in what was planned – his death and his resurrection – the personhood, the Son of God, would be seen by the people of the world. Glorification, is to have one’s person, one’s character, revealed to others. Humans would find amazement in God’s love. Find themselves overwhelmed by the grace of God and find humility in God’s mercy. That God is a God who people would be drawn to – drawn into a new relationship with to walk in his kingdom.

It's wasn't – it isn't – easy to be a disciple of Jesus. The consequences of our faith can give us trouble at times too. Still, the truth that God will be glorified – others will behold the person of God and all that He is – is worth whatever cost we may encounter. Having lives to glorify God is really the main purpose of why we exist.

We don't like to really think about the decisions and choices Jesus had to make. We much rather hang onto the idea that Jesus chose us – we didn't have to choose Him – he chose us as his. That doesn't mean that we don't have our own choices each day to follow Jesus and live by the faith that we have. Even when our souls are troubled, even when we deal with the loss of death and the prospect of our own death, we can choose to allow God to be glorified in our lives. And just as I ended the children's message I can end this message as well. Thank you God for giving us Jesus. Thank you Jesus for giving your life for us and thank you for your love. Amen!

Spoken Hymn of the Day: What Wondrous Love is This?

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love it this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul.

Prayers of the people: (Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**)

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world and all in need. You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness through the world. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

Lift up Miss Paxley and all the children in our congregations and our lives that they too may understand the magnitude of the promises that they have been given through their own baptisms. Help us all to teach and reach them when they need to be reminded of what a good disciple means and being a serving neighbor brings to their lives. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

You fill the earth – from tiny grains of wheat to the might thunder – with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds and protect us from the storms, flooding and wildfires in order to plant and farm the fields. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are gravely ill and all of those who grieve. Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. For those who walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, Margie and Sonya, Marlis and Terry, Jeff and Evonne, Kirk and Arlis, and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts..... Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words of Institution and 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. 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

Blessing:

We are what God made us to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve our neighbors. God, bless us that we may be a blessing to others the name of the holy and + life-giving Trinity. Amen.

Closing Spoken Hymn: Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.
Let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and power.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyes shall close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgement throne
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

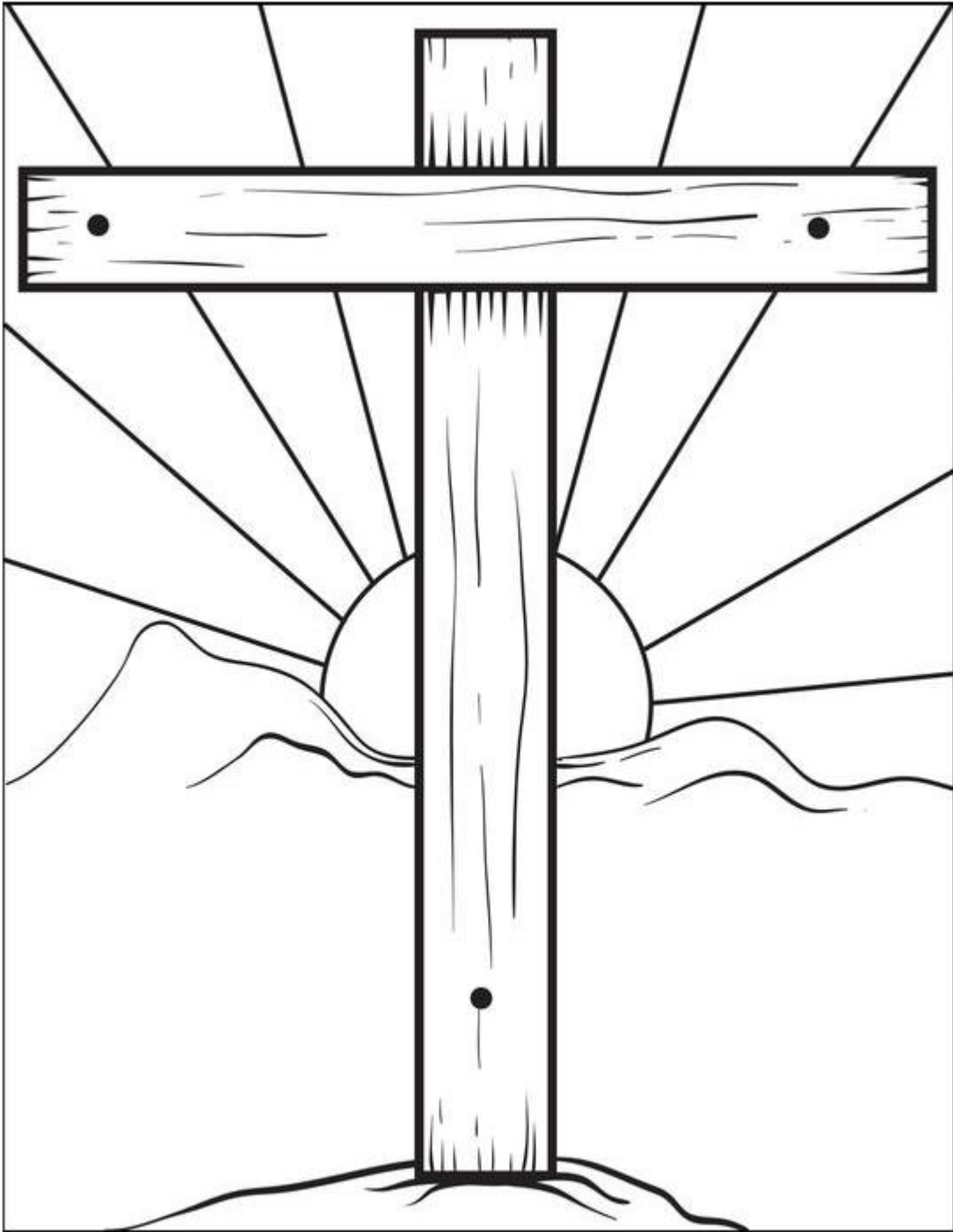
Dismissal: Go in Peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark Your Calendars: *(All services are streamed on-line as well as in -person)*

Wednesday, March 24th – Lenten Service at 7pm –Kirkebo (no meal served)

Sunday, March 28th – Palm Sunday & Confirmation Service at 9am at Nora

Coloring Page



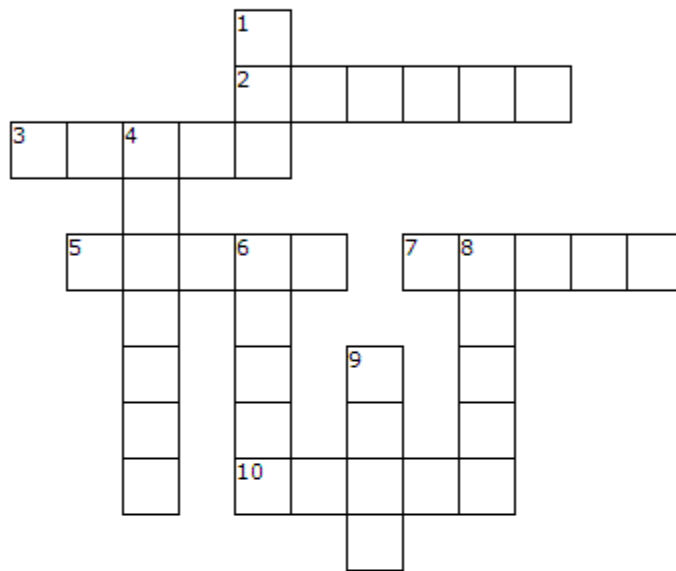
"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself."

John 12:32

The Power of His Love

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:32 (NIV)

Based on John 12:28-33 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. To be raised up
3. A heavenly servant of God, often pictured as a human with wings
5. What we humans use to speak or sing
7. The Son of God
10. The end of life

DOWN

1. Everyone and everything
4. To bring praise and honor to God
6. A large group of people
8. The land surface of the world
9. To attract someone or something

DEATH
ALL

ANGEL
DRAW

VOICE
GLORIFY

EARTH
LIFTED

JESUS
CROWD

The Power of His Love

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:32 (NIV)

Based on John 12:28-33 (NIV)



R D I E H L T I F E D F M H Q
E N Q T D F I M P W X D Q E D
I J R V L S M S O O M N U M N
M A U E P F E R C G H E A R D
E O S D R A C X K U R X X M Z
W Y X G G W E C L E A P K Z E
M O I J K E T H D D R A W C V
F X R R J T M N S H O W V W H
A W E L B F U E V M V A X C T
T Z W B D H P O N R A O W F B
H U V O T P E R R T W N I O J
E D P E H P W A I V I N G C G
R I W A O I M T V N V K V E E
C A G L O R I F Y E C M V L L
W F G B L I F T E D N E Y Q F

WORLD	DIE	TIME	HEARD	CROWD
ANGEL	HEAVEN	MYSELF	LIFTED	MEN
VOICE	FATHER	GLORIFY	PRINCE	SHOW
JUDGEMENT	DRAW	EARTH	THUNDER	NAME

The Power of His Love

John 12:28-33



"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will _____ all men to myself."
John 12:32 (NIV)

LTIFED

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1

WLORD

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2

FETAHR

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3

SOHW

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4

Answer:

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1 2 3 4

He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.
John 12:33(NIV)

Solution

lifted
world
father
show
draw

