

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 9, 2008**

**GATHERING WITH JOY**

**Prelude “Largo”** G.F. Handel

**Welcome & call to worship**

**\*Opening hymn #479**

**“I Will Sing of My Redeemer”**

*(Ushers available for seating)*

**\*God's greeting and greeting each other**

**\*Hymn #384** (verse 3 – a cappella)

**“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

**OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD**

**Time of confession**

**Song “Merciful God”** CCLI# 225774

Merciful God, O abounding in love,  
faithful to all who draw near You;  
Hearing the cries of the humble in heart,  
showing the Cross they may cling to.  
Helpless I come, broken in sin;  
found at the feet of Your mercy.  
Father, forgive; may my sin  
be remembered no more.

**Prayer**

**Song “Merciful God”**

Merciful God, O abounding in love;  
faithful through times we have failed You.  
Selfish in thought and uncaring in deed,  
foolish in word and ungrateful.  
Spirit of God, conquer our hearts;  
with love that flows from forgiveness.  
Cause us to yield and return to the mercy of God.

**Words of assurance:**

**I Timothy 1:15; I Peter 2:24; Romans 3:22**

**Song “The Power of the Cross”** CCLI# 225774

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
nailed to a cross of wood.  
This, the pow'r of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath  
we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,  
bearing the awesome weight of sin,  
Every bitter thought, every evil deed  
crowning Your bloodstained brow.  
This, the pow'r of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath  
we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
for through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
won through Your selfless love.  
This the power of the cross:  
Son of God—slain for us.  
What a love! What a cost!  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

**Morning prayer: Bruce Vermeer**

**Pastoral Blessing**

*(Children Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade may be escorted  
to Children in Worship)*

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture:** John 3:16-17; 20:30-31

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**Message:** Love & Believe

**RESPONDING IN FAITH AND SERVICE**

**\*Hymn #495:1-3**

**“I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace”**

**Our gifts to the Lord:**

Ministries of Brookside and Debt Reduction

**Offertory “Welsh Hymn” Medley**

**\*God's blessing**

**\*Closing song #373:1,6**

**“Lift High the Cross”**

**Postlude**

\* - stand, if you are able

Preaching: Pastor Paul DeVries

Organist: Bev Becksvoort

Pianists: Lisa Vanderkamp, Mary Douma

Ministry of music: Chamber Ensemble

Cover artwork: Brett Schepel