

March 29th: The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday Liturgy and Activities for Weaving God's Promises Youth

To Our Youth,

Throughout the centuries there have been many times that Christians couldn't come together at church. When they weren't able to meet for communion, Christians all over the world developed their own little liturgies (ways of praying) and devotions to use at home. Today's liturgy will feel somewhat like our normal Sunday gatherings. Even though we can't be together, we'll all pray with the same words. Pay attention to what's the same and what's different.

After you pray through the liturgy, we've included some activities and reflections for you. We miss you all, and can't wait to see you soon!

Your teachers,

Ms. Amy, Ms. Caitlyn, and Ms. Mary

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The History of the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Today is the Fifth Sunday in Lent. Lent is the church season that spans the 40 days before Easter. It is a time to prepare and reflect for our most important church celebration, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. To help us reflect on the life of Jesus, each Sunday in Lent has a different theme. Today is called Passion Sunday. On this day we look forward to the events of Holy Week (the week before Easter), and remember all that happened to Jesus and the parables he taught before he died and rose again.

How to Pray with a Home Liturgy

- Find your favorite quiet place at home. It may be in your room or outside. Make sure you can sit comfortably, and if you go outside bring a blanket or sweatshirt.
- If you'd like to pray your liturgy with a parent or sibling, take a moment to decide 'parts'. Make sure everyone gets a turn to be the Reader.
- If you are praying the liturgy by yourself, you can pray out loud, or silently.



Christ of the Breadlines, woodcut by Fritz Eichenberg

A Home Liturgy for Weaving God's Promises Youth

Reader: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

All: God of the present moment, who in Jesus stills storms and soothes frantic hearts; bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you.

Amen.

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 23:31-40

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Take 4 slow breaths, in and out. In and out. Close with the following prayer:

All: Dear Lord, you taught us that being a disciple means being willing to help others, to give of ourselves, and to be kind to our neighbors. Help us to live righteous lives that we may be worthy of and ready for the coming of your kingdom. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Reader: Let us go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

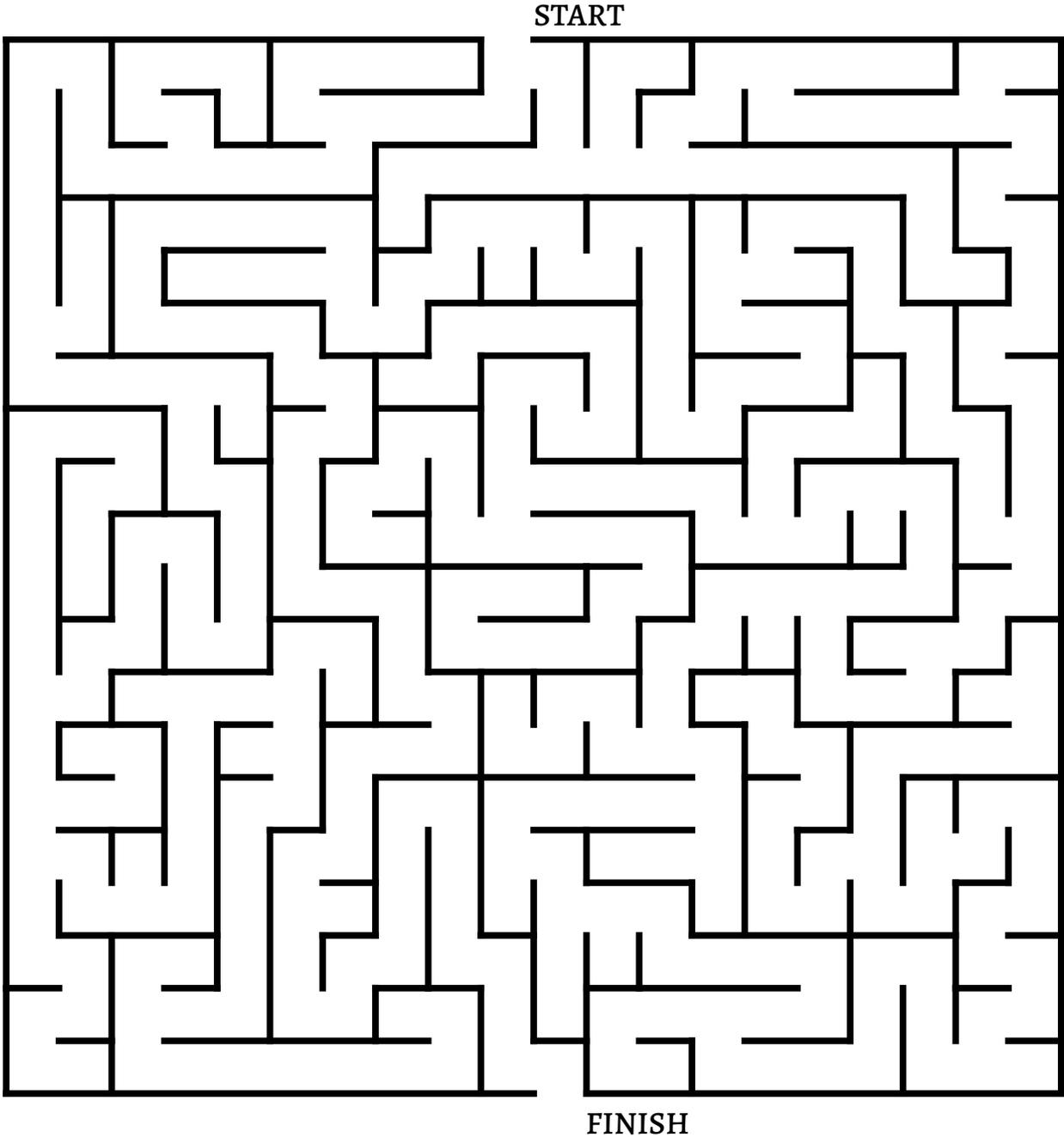
All: Thanks be to God.

Activities

Today's Scripture reading was filled with twists and turns. In this parable Jesus showed the disciples that there's often more going on than what they see, and a simple act of kindness can serve a bigger purpose.

Life's Twists and Turns

Use a pencil to find your way through the maze.



Activities Cont.

Pay It Forward

As we all shelter at home, it takes some extra thought to figure out how we might help others. Think about the kinds of people who might be in need of something .

- List a few people who might need extra help right now.

- What are ways you could help them? Do you have extra things that someone else might need, like food or clothing?

After you've made your list, talk with your parents about how you might all *safely* help someone else.

Reflection Questions

As you think about the Scripture reading from our liturgy, here are a few questions.

- Why do you think Jesus told this parable? What lesson is He trying to teach?

- Who do you think “the least of these” are?

- Were there any words you didn't know? List them here. Look them up and write out their definitions.