

5:30 p.m. – Service of the Word and Sacrament

**Order of Service**  
**Saint Michael Lutheran Church**  
**3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901**

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**The 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday in Lent**

**March 16, 2024**

**Prelude**

*"Variations on 'How Firm a Foundation'"*

*arr. by Janet Linker*

**Welcome, Announcements & Greetings**

**Opening Hymn**

*"How Firm a Foundation"*  
*(vs. 1-4)*

**728**

**Confession & Absolution**

*Pastor:* Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

**People:** Almighty God, we are called to persevere in our obedience to your will and your ways, but instead we sin against you. We do not walk in your ways or love others as we should. We are more interested in fulfilling our own desires than serving others and being faithful to your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

*(Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.)*

*Pastor:* God, in His mercy, sent His Son to deliver us. Jesus faithfully obeyed His Father's will and suffered and died to save us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**People:** Lord, lead us to walk faithfully in Your ways.

**Old Testament Reading**

Micah 6:7-8 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup>He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

Ephesians 6:13-20 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## Holy Gospel

John 19:16-22 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup>Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. <sup>19</sup>Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. <sup>21</sup>The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Hymn of the Day

*"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"*  
(vs. 1, 3, 4 & 6)

**743**



# Sermon

## *“Guided to the Cross: Guided to Perseverance”*

*Pastor Dave Bass*

To watch and listen to last week’s sermon online at [www.smlcs.org](http://www.smlcs.org),  
click on “Church” and “Watch the Live Stream.”

## Sermon Outline:

**Sermon Thought #1:** Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ and perseverance served the purpose of  
\_\_\_\_\_ all things back to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Sermon Thought #2:** The \_\_\_\_\_ is the ultimate sign of Jesus’ persevering  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Sermon Thought #3:** Each of you have been \_\_\_\_\_ by the living God to share His  
\_\_\_\_\_ with others.

## Apostles' Creed

*inside back cover of hymnal*

## Offering

*"Children of the Heavenly Father"*

*arr. by Edward Broughton*

*A special stewardship note to our guests: the ministries and work of Saint Michael Lutheran Church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends as they steward God's gifts. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled or pressured to make a contribution.*

Online contributions and donations can be made by clicking this link: [tinyurl.com/SMLGiving](https://tinyurl.com/SMLGiving).

You may also mail your offerings to the church office: 3595 Broadway, Ft. Myers, FL 33901.

## Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

*Pastor:* Lord, in Your mercy,

*People:* Hear our prayer.

## Holy Communion

## Distribution Hymns

*"Children of the Heavenly Father"*

**725**

*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

**702**

## Blessing

## Closing Hymn

*"Be Thou My Vision"*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## Postlude

*"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"*

*arr. by David Cherwien*

