

A silhouette of a hiker with a backpack is shown in profile, climbing a steep, rocky mountain trail. The hiker is positioned in the lower half of the frame, leaning forward with hands on the rocks. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with soft, glowing clouds and a bright light source on the right side. The overall mood is one of perseverance and achievement.

GUIDED *to the* CROSS

Week 5
**GUIDED TO
PERSEVERANCE**

6:30 p.m. – Service of the Word

Order of Service

Saint Michael Lutheran Church

3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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5th Lenten Midweek Service

March 20, 2024

*In this service for the fifth week of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to grow in perseverance.
In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of perseverance in the midst of strife
in the name of Jesus, who endured the cross to the very end for us all.*

Prelude

"Be Thou My Vision"

arr. by Paul Manz

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

744

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

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.

Special Music

"In the Silence"

*words and music by Katie Ball
offered by Katie Ball*

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6:13-20 (NIV)

¹³Therefore 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. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Hymn of the Day

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

see insert

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,
click on "Church" and "Watch the Live Stream."

Offering

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

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Be Still"

see insert

