

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT — Judica
March 25th, 2012

Judica—“Judge me” or “Vindicate me, O God.” Today’s Scripture readings show God vindicating His holy ones in many ways. He takes up their cause. He defends them. He saves them from the judgements against them. He protects them when in danger. Whether it is the son of promise, Isaac, or *the* Son of promise, Jesus, or you. Jesus vindicates you and judges or declares you right by shedding His own blood.

To our guests and visitors: Welcome to Epiphany! We pray that your time with us today will be a blessing to you as you hear the Good News of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest book on the wall in the entrance area of the church and join us for coffee after church in the board room.

We’re celebrating the Lord’s Supper today! The Lord’s Supper is a great blessing to those who are prepared and worthy to receive it. (To help you prepare, see page 329 in the hymnal).

A person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in Jesus’ words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins” (referring to the body & blood of Christ in the bread & wine). For as the Bible says, “anyone [who] eats and drinks without recognizing the body [and blood] of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself”. Anyone not yet instructed, or in doubt, or who hold a different confession than that of this congregation and Lutheran Church-Canada, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to *first speak with the pastor* before the service.

We follow **DIVINE SERVICE**, *Setting One*, p.151.

This bulletin contains all the options not contained in the service on p.203.

We suggest you use it as a bookmark in your Service Book.

During Lent we “bury” the “Alleluia” to mark the somber mood of this penitential season. This means we omit the Gloria in Excelsis, use the Lenten Verse “Return to the Lord” before the Gospel, and the “Nunc Dimittis” after the Distribution.

Hymn 431

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”

Introit

Ps. 43:3-5; antiphon: Ps. 43:1-2a

Vindicate me, | O God,*
and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,
from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*

For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.
Send out your light and your truth; let them | lead me;*

let them bring me to your holy hill and to your | dwelling!
Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my ex- | ceeding joy,*
and I will praise you with the lyre, O | God, my God.
Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation | and my God.
Vindicate me, | O God,*
and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,
from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*

For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

Collect

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-14

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

Psalms 43

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 9:11-15

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood,

thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Gospel Reading

John 8:42-59

⁴²Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me." ⁴⁶Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵²The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Hymn of the Day: 547

"The Lamb, The Lamb"

St. 1-4

Distribution Hymns: 550
537

*"Lamb of God"
"Beautiful Saviour"*

Closing Hymn 430

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

St. 1, 2, 6, 7

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For more information on the church save the announcements insert.

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March 25th, 2012



"Jesus Is Greater than Abraham"

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.'
So they picked up stones to throw at him..."*

John 8:58-59

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Thunder Bay, ON