**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

|  |  |
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**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 26, 2023, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

In today’s gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God’s promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God’s unfailing promise in our baptism.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING SONG Come and Gather *from Tree of Life with music available in narthex***

***Refrain***

**Come and gather beneath the tree of life.**

**Come and gather beneath the tree of life—**

**root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release.**

**Come and gather beneath the tree of life.**

1. Here we raise the saving cross of Jesus,

singing praise to him who leads us on from death into new life. ***(Refrain)***

2. Flowing from this tree of grace and passion,

Oh how sweet the taste, how deep and rich the well-spring of your love. ***(Refrain)***

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who journeys with us these forty days,

and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another

our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,

so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

☩ forgives you in Christ’s name,

and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

1The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” 4Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.”  
 7So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” 10I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.  
 11Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ 12Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 130**

1Out of the depths  
  I cry to you, O Lord;  
 2**O Lord,  hear my voice!**  
  **Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**  
 3If you were to keep watch over sins,  
  O Lord,  who could stand?  
 4**Yet with you is forgiveness,**  
  **in order that you may be feared.**   
 5I wait for you, O Lord;  my soul waits;  
  in your word is my hope.  
 6**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**  
  **more than those who keep watch for the morning.**  
 7O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;  
  with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.  
 8**For the Lord shall redeem Israel**  
  **from | all their sins.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11**

6To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, 8and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.  
 9But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Tree of Life**

**Return to the Lord, your God,**

**who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,**

**and abounding in steadfast love,**

**and abounding in steadfast love.**

**GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

1Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” 4But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” 5Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.  
 7Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” 8The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” 9Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” 11After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” 12The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” 13Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” 16Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”  
  
 17When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” 23Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”  
  
 28When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” 29And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” 35Jesus began to weep. 36So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”  
  
 38Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” 40Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” 41So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” 43When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”  
  
 45Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **When We Are Living ELW 639**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**A close-up of hands shaking

Description automatically generated with medium confidencewas crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

…Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in March*** *(collected in a special envelope) will go to* ***Feed My Starving Children****. Their mission is to feed God’s starving children hungry in body and spirit.*

**OFFERING SONG Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing ELW 886**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of good gifts,

receive these and all our offerings

as we present them in faithful service

for the sake of your gospel.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal

as you pour out your very presence

through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sung) Tree of Life**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

God, the giver of love,

☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth

bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

**SONG My Life is in You, Lord**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord,**  **My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.**  **My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord,**  **My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.** | I will praise You with all of my life,  I will praise You with all of my strength.  With all of my life. With all of my strength.  All of my hope is in You.  in You, it's in You, my life! |
| (Daniel Gardnerc/o Integrity Music, Inc.) CCLI License No. 669990 | |

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

**If you would like to volunteer to lector or help with communion on Easter Sunday, please contact the church office.**

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | |
| March 26 | John & Jennifer Rickinger | Linda Schreiber | Ron Rothfusz Nancy Leonard | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis |
| April 2 | Ruth & Ed Raatz | Leslie Mader | Dan & Pam Mundt | Pam Mundt | May Hill |
| April 9  Easter | Volunteer | Volunteer | Volunteer | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill |
| April 16 | Ben & Jannalee Lindquist | Julie Will | Bob & Laurel Peterson | Nancy Leonard | Breanna Butler |

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Monday, March 20 | 10:30-11:30 am | Bible Study by the fireplace |
| Tuesday, March 21 | 9:30-10:30 am | Children’s of WI playgroup – all parents & children under 4 welcome |
|  | 2:00 pm | Chapel at Three Oaks |
|  | 7:00 pm | AA meeting in the fellowship hall |
| Wednesday, March 22 | 6:00 pm | Bread & Broth |
|  | 7:00 pm | Midweek Worship Service |
|  | 7:30 pm | Confirmation Class for 7th & 8th grade |
| Sunday, March 26 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Fifth Sunday in Lent * John 11:1-45; Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus * No Sunday School (Spring Break) |

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**Christ in Our Home** daily devotional booklet is available in the church entrance for April, May, & June.  
  
***Spark*** children's magazine and ***Living Lutheran***magazine are available in the entrance of the church.