

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Worship Service Bulletin



Sunday, March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year A

Introduction

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.

Welcome

Prelude: Sweet Hour of Prayer - Vandal

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

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,

all recite together

**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.

Gathering Hymn: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing – ELW 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

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, "Prophecy 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, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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.

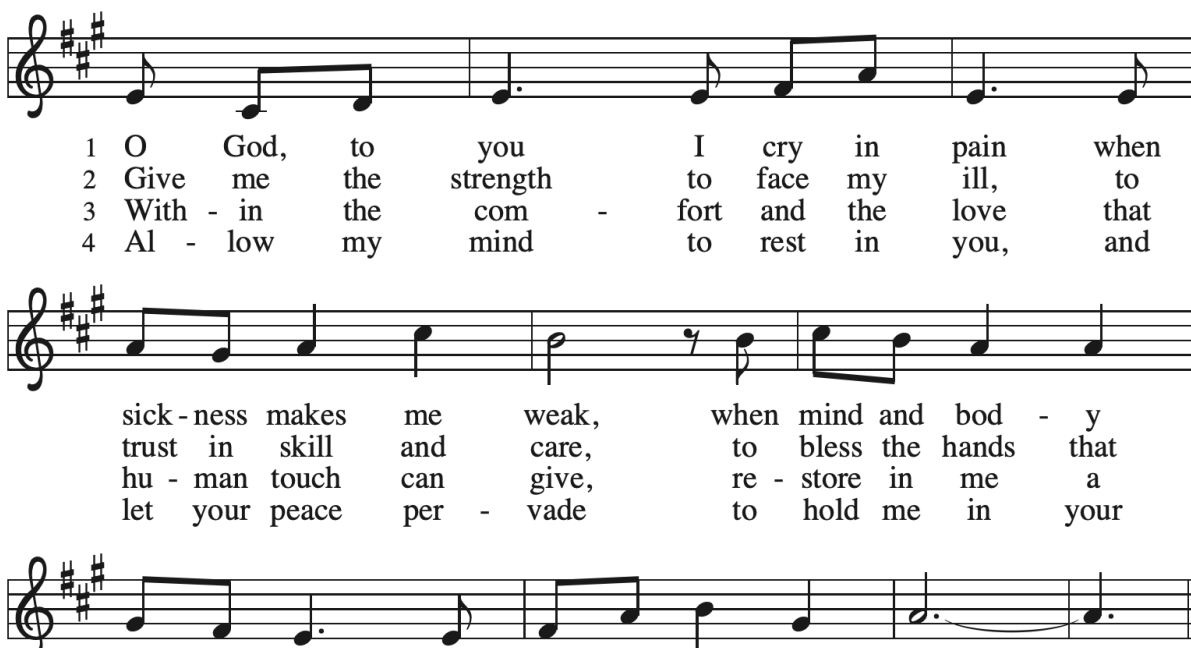
¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; 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."

The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Verse 1 is sung.

O God, to You I Cry in Pain



1 O God, to you I cry in pain when
 2 Give me the strength to face my ill, to
 3 With - in the com - fort and the love that
 4 Al - low my mind to rest in you, and

sick - ness makes me weak, when mind and bod - y
 trust in skill and care, to bless the hands that
 hu - man touch can give, re - store in me a
 let your peace per - vade to hold me in your

out of tune bring fears I can - not speak.
 help me heal and find your spir - it there.
 larg - er sense of what it is to live.
 great - er pow'r and not to be a - fraid.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020
 Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Reader:

- ¹Out of the depths
 I cry to you, O LORD;
- ²O 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, ¹who could stand?
- ⁴Yet with you is forgiveness,
 in order that you may be feared.

Verse 2 & 3 are sung:

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;
in your word is my hope.

⁶My 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.

⁸For the LORD shall redeem Israel
from ¹all their sins.

Verse 4 is sung:

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

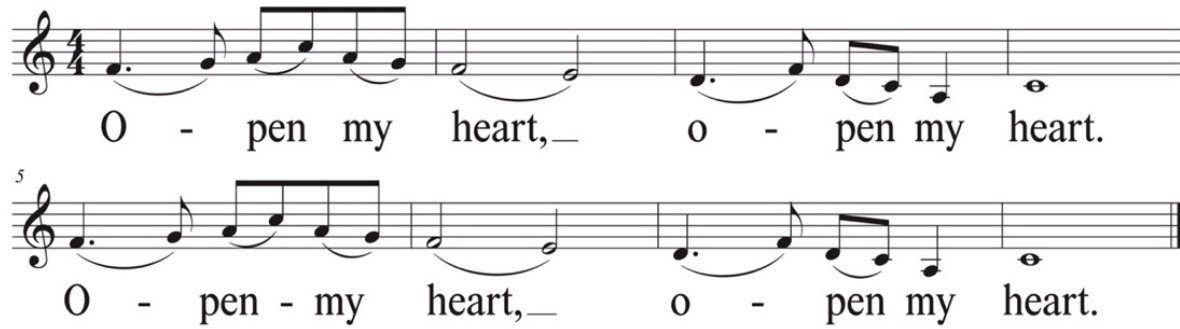
The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Open My Heart

♩ = 65

Words and Music by Ana Hernandez



Text and music (c) 2007 Ana Hernandez admin. Augsburg Fortress

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

A reading from the Holy Gospel of John.

ALL: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

Sermon: Pr. Anne Harman

Hymn of the Day: Christ is the Life – OBS 52



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.
who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: KINGSFOLD, English melody

Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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,
was 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

*Please reply to each invocation: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

A Sign of Peace and Reconciliation

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please be seated.

OFFERING

All that we have, physically and spiritually comes from God.
Our offering, of time, talent and treasure is a response to our awareness
that God is the creator of all things and that we are redeemed
through life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Your support of this ministry and the faith life of this community is appreciated.

Offering Song:

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

Offering 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.

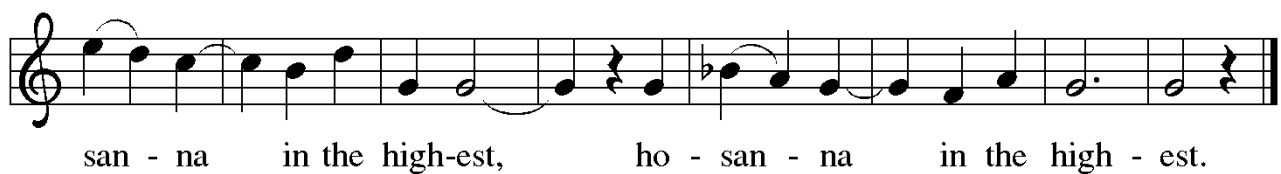
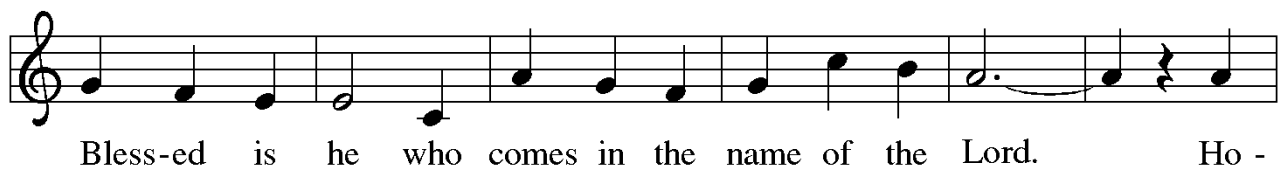
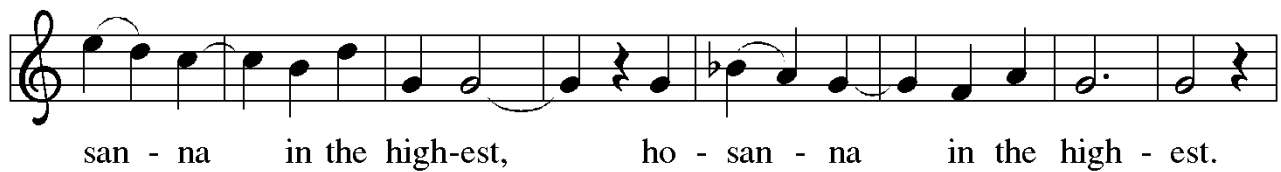
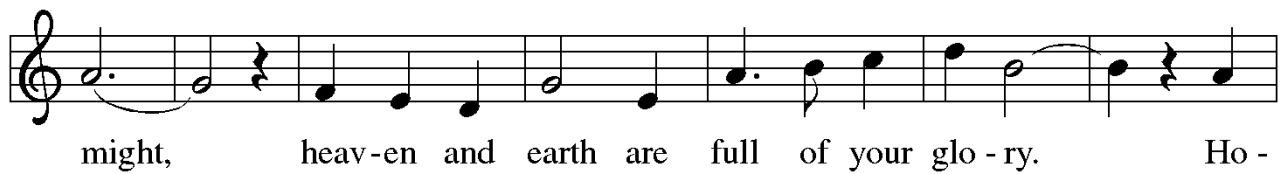
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
R/. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R/. It is right to give our thanks and praise.



LORD'S PRAYER

In this season of lent, we are using the translation of the Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand Book of Prayer.

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
May your holy name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
And Your word of peace and freedom
sustain our hope, and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

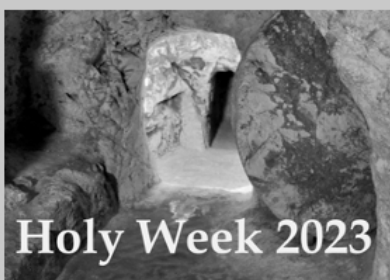
**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**



Invitation to Communion

We believe that Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus. In this sacrament we are invited to have a personal experience of Christ's presence. This is the Lord's table. All who desire to be in relationship with Christ are welcome to receive.

We receive communion using bread and wine. If you need to receive a gluten free host, please ask the communion minister. They are in a separate plastic wrap marked "gluten free." For those who prefer to receive grape juice rather than wine you will find white grape juice in the center of the trays as communion is given. If you have a question, please ask the minister as you receive. The bread and wine should be consumed here in the church before you return to your seat. If for some reason, you are unable to consume either the bread or wine please bring what was not consumed to the ushers or the pastor as soon as the service is completed.



**St. Paul's Lutheran
Church
407 S. Saturn Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33755**

Palm Sunday, April 2

10:00 am Worship in person and on ZOOM

Procession with Palms, the reading of the Passion and Holy Communion.

11:30 am – Seder Meal in person

Join us as we tell the ancient story of God's deliverance from slavery to freedom through the Passover Seder. If you want to better understand our celebration of communion, come, and experience this beautiful ritual from our Jewish heritage.

Holy Thursday, April 6:

7:00 pm – Worship in person and on ZOOM

Join us as we gather around God's Word and at Christ's table to receive the body and blood of Christ. Our service concludes with the solemn stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, April 7:

3:00 pm – Liturgy of Good Friday - in person and on ZOOM

Solemn reading of the Passion and Procession and Veneration of the Cross.

7:00 pm – Contemplative Worship – Tenebrae – in person

Gather with us as the sun sets and the day turns to night as we meet Christ on his cross at the hour of his death.

Easter Sunday – April 9:

10:00 am Worship in person and on ZOOM

Easter Lunch: We will share a potluck meal immediately after worship. Bring a dish to share and a little extra so we can invite our visitors to join us!

Communion Hymn: I Am the Bread of Life – ELW 485

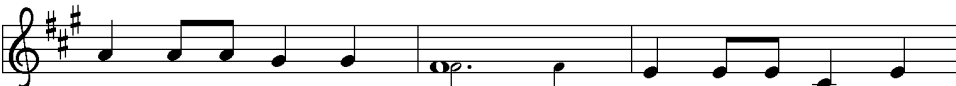
Leader or All




1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not the hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, you shall . . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you
 Son of God, who have




me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Refrain
 All



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."



Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

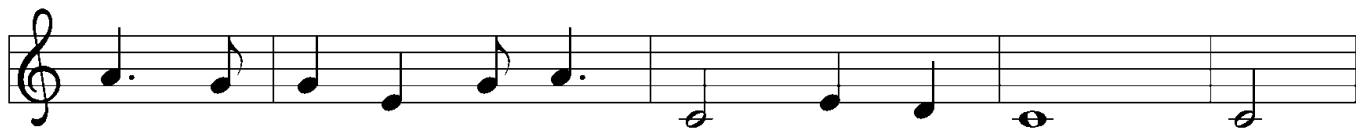
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TABLE BLESSING
Prayer after Communion
Blessing

Recessional Hymn: Give Me Jesus – ELW 770

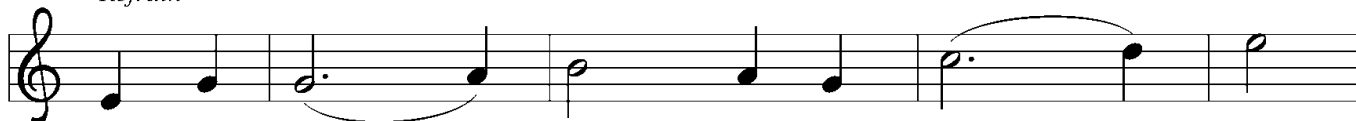


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 AT 6:45 PM- FAST 2023 Nehemiah Action Meeting Monday, March 27 at 6:45 PM at Indian Rocks Baptist Church. Please pick up your tickets for the event today.

SEDER MEAL on Palm Sunday

After Worship on April 2 we will gather in Kinports Hall to celebrate a traditional Passover Seder Meal. Come and hear the story of Israel's liberation from slavery and discover the connection between the Passover and Jesus Paschal Mystery – his suffering death and resurrection. The cost of the Seder \$20 please sign up in the Narthex.

SILVER FOXES will resume meeting on Wednesday, April 12th at 1:00. We will meet at Johnny's Italian Restaurant; 2907 FL-590; Clearwater. A signup sheet will be at Ushers Table. The **DEADLINE** for registration is Sunday April 9th. No age or membership requirements. ALL ARE WELCOME. Contact Phyllis Berlage with questions (727) 698-2728

Pop-Up Food Pantry

Our friends and neighbors visit the food pantry regularly, and our stock of staple food is low again. We will begin collecting for our food pantry weekly. Please consider picking up a couple of extra non-perishable items in boxes, jars, or cans, when you shop. We especially need fruit, beans, veggies, juices, soup, tuna, stew, potato dishes and pasta. Smaller sizes and items with pop-top lids are best. Family size items are only helpful to a few of our guests. Bring your donations to Kinports Hall before or after worship. Thank you for your care for those who visit the pantry.

Hurricane Relief

Help us support the teens and young adults coming to Southwest Florida to assist with cleanup from Hurricane Ian. We are collecting to provide air mattresses. Your \$20 ensures a soft landing for our heroes.



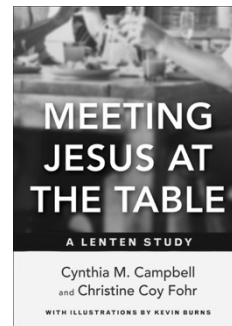
Easter Flowers Donations
Please see the flyer in the bulletin today.

Wednesdays during Lent at St. Paul's

Lent Book Study, Eucharist & Meal

Wednesdays at 11:00 in person and on ZOOM
"Meeting Jesus at the Table: A Lenten Study."

This week: Chapters 7 & 8



Wednesday Evening Contemplative Worship 7:00 PM in the Church

Our souls crave silence and stillness. And yet, many resist this spiritual practice. This Lent we will intentionally make room for the silence and stillness God invites. Join us in the quiet of the night for prayer and silence.

Wednesday, March 29 – Word & Eucharist



**At St. Paul's, we traditionally give donations for Easter Flowers in honor of
our loved ones or our family
to decorate the altar during the Easter season.**

**Your loved ones or family will be listed
in the worship bulletin on April 9 and April 16**

**The flowers will be left on the altar
through the Easter Season**

**Please return this form with your donation
no later than April 2**

The suggested donation for flowers is \$15

Easter Flowers are given by:

(your name) _____

please check one:

- ☐ In memory of
- ☐ In honor of

(Name of person(s) or family) _____

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.

**407 S. Saturn Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33755
727-446-7718**

St. Paul's Website: <https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

St. Paul's Email: office@stpaulsclearwater.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulslutheranchurch.clearwater.fl>

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

**To reach Pastor Anne
pastoranneharman@gmail.com**



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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