LENT



- A SEASON OF PREPARATION

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023 8 am and 11 am Worship Service

As We Gather

Each Sunday in Lent brings us closer to Holy Week and closer to the foot of the cross. In a sense, we are annual pilgrims traveling on the way of and to the cross. Each year is slightly different from the one that has come before on that cross way. According to the liturgical year in the Church, we are closer today to the death of Christ and His glorious resurrection than we were a week ago. And, according to our earthly lives, we are drawing closer to our own individual death and resurrection. Along this way, we intersect with the cross, which serves as a sign for our lives at all times. May we each be blessed in our pilgrimage!

Welcome and Announcements

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LSB 686 (vs. 1-4)

- Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
 While the hope of endless glory
 Fills my heart with joy and love,
 Teach me ever to adore Thee;
 May I still Thy goodness prove.
 - Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
 - Oh, to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be;
 Let that grace now like a fetter
 Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
 Prone to leave the God I love.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
 Seal it for Thy courts above.

4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.
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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

Opening Sentences

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!

The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light.

Confession and Absolution

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are

hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Humble yourselves before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father, we acknowledge our sinful nature and repent of our sins—those of which we are not aware and those we know full well. We do not love You and other people as we ought. We are often careless with Your creation and heedless in choosing the proper priorities of our lives. Yet it is our intent to say and do that which honors You. For the sake of Jesus grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we may be fit places for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and may serve You in time and in eternity.

God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the № Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ※ peace.

Amen.

Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

LSB 819 (vs .1)

Sing praise to God, the highest good,
The author of creation,
The God of love who understood
Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills
And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

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Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

(Life is restored in the valley of the dry bones.)

37 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

- ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.
- ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know."
- ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon 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."

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

- ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.
- ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."
- ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.
- ¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.'
- ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 11:1-45

(The sign of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter. *Glory to You, O Lord*.

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.

- ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."
- ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."
- ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.
- ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."
- ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?"
- ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."
- ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him."
- ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."
- ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."
- ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."
- ¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.
- ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.
- ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

- ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."
- ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
- ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."
- ²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.
- ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.
- ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.
- ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
- ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.
- ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"
- ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"
- ³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.
- ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days."
- ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"
- ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always

hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life \div everlasting. Amen.

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

LSB 741 (vs.1, 2, 4, & 6)

- Jesus Christ, my sure defense And my Savior, now is living! Knowing this, my confidence Rests upon the hope here given, Though the night of death be fraught Still with many_an anxious thought.
- Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;
 Likewise I to life shall waken.
 He will bring me where He is;
 Shall my courage then be shaken?

Shall I fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His members dead?

- 4 I am flesh and must return
 To the dust, whence I am taken;
 But by faith I now discern
 That from death I shall awaken
 With my Savior to abide
 In His glory, at His side.
- 6 Then take comfort and rejoice,
 For His members Christ will cherish.
 Fear not, they will hear His voice;
 Dying, they will never perish;
 For the very grave is stirred
 When the trumpet's blast is heard.

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Message

Pastor Nathan McCarty

Prayers of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 194

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is meet and right so to do*.

Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus LSB 195

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna. hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He That cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the + Lord be with you always. *Amen*.

Agnus Dei LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

Be Still, My Soul

LSB 752 (vs. 1-4)

- Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
 Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
 Leave to your God to order and provide;
 In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
 Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
 Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- 2 Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
 To guide the future as He has the past.
 Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
 All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
 Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
 His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- 3 Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
 And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
 Then you will better know His love, His heart,
 Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
 Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
 From His own fullness all He takes away.
 - 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord, When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past, All safe and blessèd we shall meet at last.

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Dismissal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

We give You thanks, Father, for the life and knowledge You have revealed to us through Jesus, Your Son. To You be glory forever. We bless You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. Sanctify us by the working of Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do as we await the final resurrection and fullness of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

Blessing of God's People (Benediction)

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685 (vs. 1-4)

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
 Follow His example pure,
 Through a world that would deceive us
 And to sin our spirits lure.
 Onward in His footsteps treading,
 Pilgrims here, our home above,
 Full of faith and hope and love,
 Let us do the Father's bidding.
 Faithful Lord, with me abide;
 I shall follow where You guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
 And with patience bear our cross.
 Joy will follow all our sadness;
 Where He is, there is no loss.
 Though today we sow no laughter,
 We shall reap celestial joy;
 All discomforts that annoy
 Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
 Jesus, here I share Your woe;
 Help me there Your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
 Since by death He conquered death,
 He will free us from destruction,
 Give to us immortal breath.
 Let us mortify all passion
 That would lead us into sin;
 And the grave that shuts us in
 Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
 Jesus, here with You I die,
 There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

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Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Family Contemporary

9:30 am Worship Service

Welcome and Announcements Opening Song of Praise

First Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Life is restored in the valley of the dry bones.)

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- ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.
- ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered. "O Lord God, you know."
- ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.
- ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 And I will lay sinews upon 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."
- ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
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- ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And you shall

know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

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This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life \pm everlasting. Amen.

Praise Song

Message

Pastor Nathan McCarty

Confession and Absolution

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are

hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Humble yourselves before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father, we acknowledge our sinful nature and repent of our sins—those of which we are not aware and those we know full well. We do not love You and other people as we ought. We are often careless with Your creation and heedless in choosing the proper priorities of our lives. Yet it is our intent to say and do that which honors You. For the sake of Jesus grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we may be fit places for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and may serve You in time and in eternity.

God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \maltese Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in \maltese peace.

Amen.

Holy Communion

Distribution Song(s)

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Blessing of God's People (Benediction)

Closing Song of Praise

Acknowledgments

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Please Keep In Your Prayers

Mary Barrett and Family, Deborah A. Brewer, Ben Bryant, Gretchen Bugbee, Don Connell, Becky Duck, Sue Eischen, Joan Fischer, Kristine Gideon, Paul Huber, Joan Hummel, Kim M. Johnston, Jerry Kirkman, Selena Lamb, Vladimir and Nataly Lyudmirsky, Karen Matteson, Susan Novak, Jeff Parsons, Dan Runko, Dean Shackelford, Sylvia Spiering, Mary Spreier, Nancy Westphal, Fae Williams

Please fill out a prayer card and put it in the altar plate or call the office.



Holy Communion

As Lutherans, we believe that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper, together with bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your faith, you are welcome at our altar.

If you desire a prayer, write it on the prayer card and we will pray for you throughout the week.

Please see an usher or elder should you have any questions or need more information. We are here to serve you and strive to make your worship experience the best it can be at Bethlehem.

Nursery Care

If you should need a quiet place to calm your children or tend to their needs, nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers during worship. The nursery is located across the courtyard by the restrooms.

BLC Guest Password: MartinLuther

Birthdays this week

Charlotte Stanfield, Cade Werhner, Brent Mai, Brenda Murray, Chloe OConnor, Marilyn Seibel, Cindy Stafford, John Garner, Dr. David Pietrasiuk, Carter Radtke, Ayden Zarski, Reese Williams

Anniversaries this week

Glenn and Joann Ekman Lee and Joan Fischer Steve and Nancy Florey

Announcements

Sunday, March 26, 2023

LWML will be meeting after the 11:00 am Worship Service to put the hygiene kits together.

Guatemala Mission Trip

The Guatemala mission trip dates are April 22-April 30th 2023. We will once again be working with Child Beyond to build houses in the area around their orphanage. Please prayerfully consider joining this wonderful mission trip. Contact Pastor Brones or Holly Dellinger for more information.

Vacation Bible School

Save the dates!



Altar Flowers

In loving memory of Howard Flock

&

Celebration of Benda Murray's Birthday by her family

BLC Events this week

Sunday, March 26

8 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 am Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Led by Pastor Bicknase

9:30 am Adult Bible Study (Upper Room)

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

11 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

With Live Stream of worship

Intergenerational Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

12 pm LWML assembling Hygiene Kits

Tuesday, March 28

6 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal 7 pm Executive Council

Wednesday, March 29

9:30 am Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)
Noon Mid-Week Lenten Worship

1 pm Staff Meeting (Conference Room)

5:30 pm Confirmation and Senior High Meeting (Youth Room)

6:30 pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 7 pm Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Thursday, March 30

9:30 am Bible Study

4:30 pm Praise Team rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6:45 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, April 1

8:45 am AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

9:30 am Confirmation Practice

Sunday, April 2 (Palm Sunday)

8 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 am Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Led by Pastor Bicknase

9:30 am Adult Bible Study (Upper Room)

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

11 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

Intergenerational Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

12 pm Confirmation Dinner for confirmands and family



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Timothy Huber

Praise Team

Richard Smith, Alicia Crespo

Asst Music Director and Screen Coordinator

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Sunday Worship Services

8 am and 11 am (*Traditional Worship*) 9:30 am (*Family-Contemporary*)