

✠ FIFTH WEEKEND IN LENT ✠

March 28-29, 2020

HYMNS

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult (v. 1,3,5)
My Faith Looks Up to Thee (v. 1-3)
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (v. 1,2,5)

IN OUR PRAYERS

Vicki Piontkowski, Kay Grove, Michele Amelotte, Bethany Popour, Gerald Lancaster, Joanne Nicholls, Gordon Hansen, Deb Nitchman's Family, Kay Zinsli, Diane Prevost, Tammy Furze, Julie Troy, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Rob VanCleave, Donna Schafer, David Schaedig, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Kevin Reiser, Karlene Trump, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Bill Estlack, Nick Wittman, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, Davod Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Yvonne Stoll, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, Cody Gustin.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us safely through the sea, who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

C: Amen

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Merciful God,

C: We have sinned against heaven and before you. We do not fully live as your sons and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends. Forgive us and restore us, that we may resist all that draws us away from you, and be at peace with one another. Amen.

P: We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes us in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of + Jesus Christ, forgiving us all our sins and making of us a new creation.

C: 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.

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Offerings

Thank you to the 17 people who have dropped off or mailed in your weekly offerings in addition to the 30 some in the Simply Giving Program. The work of God's Kingdom and the work of Grace Lutheran goes on. It is now best to mail them in. If you would like to be added to the Simply Giving automatic offering to the church please call the office and the process will be worked out with you. You can also go to our website and use Give + for a one time contribution or set up a recurring contribution. ***Thank you to one and all for your faithfulness in your stewardship toward God's work at Grace Lutheran.***

Little Food Pantry Gifts

The Little Food Pantry received a wonderful gift of \$595 from *Grooming by Susan* a pet grooming service by Susan Ratz. This was something she wanted to do and call simply to tell us she was doing it and there would be more to come. If you know Susan, let her know our thanks for this incredible generosity.

Community members have been coming by the Little Food Pantry and placing things in the outside box. If I have the chance and see them from my office window, I try to get to the door and call out a thanks.

I personally want to thank the congregation for embracing this project and making it happen and keeping it ongoing. More people are involved stocking it now. So thank you. We certainly are serving people in need. And providing a way for people from the community to share their bounty with those in need. We are ***making a Christ-like difference in our community*** for those hungry ***and in the world*** by giving others an opportunity to share their bounty. Thank you to the congregation for working on it.

A Grace bit from members

Jan Charter shares that saying the 23rd Psalm while washing your hands will have you spending the recommended time doing the task.

Lets share other ways you have found to adapt to the pandemic and staying at home. Email them in and we will share them in future communications.

Grace Lutheran Church building is closed

With Governor Whitmer's order to Stay Home and Stay Safe, the church building is closed. That is the building is closed but not the work of Grace Lutheran church or the congregation of Grace. God's work goes on regardless of a building. We can now check the phone remotely for messages and will respond. Mail will be picked up daily and put in the office.

Bishop Satterlee has sent this out as part of a letter to congregations following Gov. Whitmer's order:

Given this order, I, again, implore congregations to suspend all in-person worship services and weekly in-person gatherings until May 10. This includes weddings, funerals, memorial services, non-emergency baptisms, and Holy Week and Easter services. I do not have the authority to suspend in-person worship in our congregations; however, the ELCA and I do not support civil disobedience and congregations who choose to continue in-person worship will need to help me understand their decision.

This has also been the CDC's recommendation to help reduce the spread of the virus.

The majority of Grace Council has supported this recommendation and is suspending all in-person worship and in-persons gathering until May 10th or an updated recommendation.

We will work on figuring out Easter in the coming weeks. Bishop Satterlee's suggestion has been we will celebrate Easter together when we worship together again. In the meantime we will seek a way to experience it together as we are apart.

Online Worship

As I hope you saw last week there was the Gospel reading and brief meditation video available on the website. Each week we will try to improve the quality (new camera, horizontal frame and better sound) and add a bit more content as we become more familiar with the technology and how to deliver a meaning spiritual experience.

So I give a big thank you to Peggy who is working extra hard to edit and pull these videos together and then get them posted on the website. And to David for adding the music and helping produce them.

We love to hear your responses and suggestions for ways to do this and content to add.

Enjoy this weeks video. There is no outtakes reel. It is ***ALL*** there.

Thank you to all who left word via email or texting or the phone appreciating the first attempt last week. You are invited to view the video as you are able, perhaps viewing at the time you normally worship whether 5 on Saturday or 9:30 on Sunday morning. Knowing others are viewing it too and we are a community, and a congregation gathered together – even when apart.

Prayer Concerns

We are still taking prayer concerns to be included in the weekly bulletin – now becoming weekly news and announcements and more. Please do have the persons permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than just our congregation will know about it.

THE LESSONS

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, "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.”

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.

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.

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.