

Grace Lutheran Church

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Active Living

Martha and Mary lament to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here” (John 11:21). They want the past to be different, but the past is history and cannot be changed. It is as dead as Lazarus in the tomb. In response to Jesus’ comfort, Martha confesses an eventual resurrection. Jesus responds, “I am the resurrection and the life,” a statement of the present (John 11:25). Resurrection living is no longer about some after-death, ethereal future but rather is about life in the present.

Jesus goes to the tomb and demands that the stone be removed. He calls Lazarus out, not into a cloud-hopping distant life but back into the midst of life in Christ’s present presence. It is not about protection or safety but about life that boldly enters into the sharp corners and edges of living.

Jesus’ call to “come out!” reaches into the death-darkened tomb and calls Lazarus and us into the light of life where we can leave behind the stench of our “if only” ways of living. At Jesus’ call and command, and with the help of our faith communities, the prejudices and insecurities that bind us are released so that we may fully engage the world.

In the waters of baptism, our “if only” ways are drowned and we are raised up in Christ into resurrection living. The Holy Spirit empowers our baptismal living, inspiring us to speak words of hope and life into places that know only despair and hopeless death. In Christ’s presence we are unbound, released, and called into new ways of living in the resurrection life of the Messiah who breaks into the world, conquering the paralysis of death and creating active living for the sake of the world.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

5th Sunday in Lent

April 2, 2017

Lent is a season on contrition and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of penitence. The music of the season reflects our need for repentance and renewal, which is our effort to turn, again, towards God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Kneel or sit as you are able.

Confession

☞ Merciful God, you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.

☞ **We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

☞ Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.

☞ **Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

The Glory of These Forty Days

ELW 320 (red book)

Greeting

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☞ **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Your Heart, O God, is Grieved

ELW 602 (red book)

Prayer of the Day

☞ Let us pray . . . 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.**

Sit

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 **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, 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."

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130



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, | who could stand?


⁴Yet 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.

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 plen- | teous redemption.

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

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 **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.

 Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

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.

(The congregational responses before and after the Gospel Reading are omitted during Lent.)

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

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.

Sit

Children’s Message/Children’s Church

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message.

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☐ Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

☐ God, our sure strength, set the mind of your church on the Spirit of love and kinship. Bring healing where there is division and hope where there is worry. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Our*

Savior's Lutheran Church of Edmore, Gull Lake Bible Church of Hickory Corners; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You bring life where there was despair and death. Bring new hope and new growth to barren lands and water to parched earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Listen to the voices of the weak and oppressed. Guard people in all lands from danger and injustice. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Martha and Mary pleaded for healing. Hear the cries of your people who call out in need and pain. Grant healing and comfort to those who are ill. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Sharon Duits, John Burdick, Corinna Palmer, Kris Gilbert, Tim Lowe, Doug Rice, John Glasgow, Gina Morris, and the Ricker brothers.* Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Bring life to dry bones in our community. Breathe your life-giving Spirit into the corners of our ministry that need renewal. *Bring your Spirit to the work of our Transition Team.* Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give thanks for the faithful departed and for the assurance that we will join with them in the heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

Create in Me

WOV 732 (blue book)



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and



take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the



joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,

C that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

☐ Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with all creation, we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.

☑ **We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert experience of life, pouring out his life for the world.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; He 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.

☑ **Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.**

☐ Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,

☑ **both now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☞ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☞ Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread and wine for the journey.

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Sit

Lamb of God

ELW 341 (red book)

We Who Once Were Dead

ELW 495

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

☞ Let us pray . . . Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

☞ **Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Congregational Announcements

Blessing

☩ May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

☩ **Amen.**

The cross and the worship leaders will recess in silence.

Dismissal

☩ Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 81

Weekly Giving: \$3,452.00

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of hamburger/tuna helper, cereal, canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti-o's, etc).

Sunday Adult Forum--Pastor Paul is offering a new class that will run through Lent in between services titled, "Christian Worship 101." He will introduce the topic of Christian worship and will

reveal the history of the different parts of our Sunday liturgy throughout the class.

Choir – rehearsal time will change to 6:45 pm until Holy Week.

Lenten Wednesday Events – the Social Activities Committee will provide the Wednesday Lenten Supper on **April 5**: Tacos and more. A free will offering is appreciated. The supper begins at 6:00 and Wednesday Prayer Service is at 7:00 pm.

Palm Sunday, April 9, will include the presence of our bishop, Rev. Craig Satterlee. Only one service that day, at 10:00 am and includes the procession with palms.

Check it out! The Transition Team has put up a church timeline on the wall in the North hallway. Be sure to take a look at it. You can also add to the timeline. Add other significant church events you remember and/or personal events that have impacted your life. Markers are available as well as tape if you would like to put up a picture. When it is complete, it will represent a positive history of Grace and its members for the new pastor.

Cross Walk – Friday, **April 14**, beginning at 9:30 am. We will meet at Grace for prayer and then begin the 3 mile walk through Hastings central. We will return to the church for a closing prayer, snacks and fellowship. Invite friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to join us.

Holy Week Schedule:

Passion/Palm Sunday, April 9, Bishop Satterlee presiding and preaching, 10:00 am ONLY.

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7:00 pm.

Good Friday Cross Walk, April 14, 9:30 am.

Good Friday Tenebrae, April 14, 7:00 pm.

Easter Vigil, April 15, 7:00 pm.

Easter Day, Early Service, April 16, 8:00 am;

Easter Breakfast, April 16, 9:15 am;

Easter Day, Late Service, April 16, 10:45 am.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45am
Assisting Ministers	Steve Kaiser	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	John Burdick	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Hope Peck
Usher	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Ed Domke, Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Kristi Winick
Children's Church	n/a	Chris Bush, Eve Wright
Chancel Team	Jeanette Ulrich, Mary Kleinbrink	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, April 9, 2017 – 10:00 am

Assisting Ministers	Traci Wales
Cantor	Vickey Argo
Lector	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl
Usher	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Eve Wright
Children's Church	n/a No Children's Church
Chancel Team	Jeanette Ulrich, Mary Kleinbrink

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, April 2	Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Children's Church 10:45 am Transition Team 12:00 pm Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm
Monday, April 3	Communication Team 10:00 am
Tuesday, April 4	Executive Board 5:30 pm Worship Committee 6:30 pm
Wednesday, April 5	Prayer Group 6:00 pm Lent dinner 6:00 pm (public welcome) Lent Prayer Service 7:00 pm
Thursday, April 6	Choir 6:45 pm No Bell practice
Sunday, April 9	One Service Sunday 10:00 am Bishop Satterlee visits Adult Forum 8:45 am Noisy Offering