

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW 314

Greeting

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

C **Amen**

A Behold, now is the acceptable time;

C **now is the day of salvation.**

P The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo-ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.
 mer - cy. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray... Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death.
- C** **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."

L 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."

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130



Refrain



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


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 plentiful 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.**

Arise in body or spirit.
Gospel Acclamation

Return to God

Re - turn to God with

Em Am7 Bm7 Em

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. A repeat sign follows. The second staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Chords are labeled as Em, Am7, Bm7, and Em.

all your heart, the Source of grace and mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der

Am6/E Em7 Am/E C

This system contains the next two staves of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "all your heart, the Source of grace and mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Chords are labeled as Am6/E, Em7, Am/E, and C.

1. *Optional repeat* 2.

faith - ful - ness of God. Re - God.

D A Bm7 Am/E E

This system contains the final two staves of music. The vocal line has two endings. The first ending is marked "1. Optional repeat" and leads back to the beginning of the phrase. The second ending is marked "2." and concludes the phrase. The piano accompaniment features a key change to D major for the second ending, indicated by a sharp sign over the bass clef. Chords are labeled as D, A, Bm7, Am/E, and E.

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 Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

▣ **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.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.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 have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus 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.”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 looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I 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.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The 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.”

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

- P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- G** Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Time

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. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

*Silence for reflection. After reflection,
Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.*

Hymn of the Day

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

ELW 333

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

A Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Guide, direct, and watch over *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistant David and, our synod companions Trinity Lutheran Church, Battle Creek; Church of Christ, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A You weep when we weep. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, , Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Katie Holzgen (pregnancy), Corrina Palmer, Carl Schoessel, Al Throop, and Erika Wood.* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us.
Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear 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.

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

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

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

Sharing the Peace of God

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ And also with you.

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

Great Thanksgiving

☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ And also with you.

☞ Lift up your hearts.

☞ We lift them to the Lord.

☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☞ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Table Prayer

☞ 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.

☞ Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:
- ☑ **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

- ☐ Come to Jesus, our host, and our meal.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Communion

If We Live, We Live to the Lord

ACS 1025

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff contains the next two lines, with a triplet of eighth notes over the words 'wheth-er we live or'. The third staff contains the final line, with a triplet of eighth notes over the words 'wheth-er we die,'.

If we live, we live to the Lord. If we
die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or
wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's.

Eat This Bread
I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 472
ELW 485

Prayer after Communion

- ☐ Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
- ☑ **Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

☩ God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ☩ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

☩ **Amen**

Sending Song

Restore in Us, O God

ELW 328

Dismissal

☩ Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Jamie Heise

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson

Lector – Gwen Hansen

Cantor – Paul Kuhlman

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – Watson Family

Coming and Going

There is a lot of coming and going in today's gospel. Mary and Martha send a messenger to Jesus with news that Lazarus is ill. Jesus and his disciples do not go right away, but eventually they come to Martha after Lazarus has died. We learn that many had come to console the sisters. Martha proclaims Jesus "the Messiah, the Son of God, is the one coming into the world" (John 11:27). She then goes to get Mary, who comes quickly to Jesus. Mary is weeping, and so are those who come with her. When Jesus asks where Lazarus is, they invite him to come and see. They all go to the tomb. With all of this coming and going, it is not surprising that Jesus tells Lazarus to come out and that Jesus commands others to unbind him so he can go.

Lazarus emerging from the tomb is a remarkable moment, but just as remarkable are the connections of all of this story's coming and going with our daily lives. Our health comes and goes. Jobs come and go. People come into our lives and go. Kids go, and perhaps come back again. Sometimes we are the ones who come and go. The grief of loss and death comes and goes. Tears come and go. Hope can even come and go.

Amid this movement, we come together in worship. We come to gather around the font and the table and hear again the stories of Jesus coming into the world, going to the cross, and coming again in the resurrection. We come together with our griefs and joys, our struggles and celebrations, all that binds us and sets us free. We come to gather, surrounded by God's grace. Having come, we will go in peace to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

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Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 52	Views: 270
Weekly Giving: \$1494.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Non-Budget Miscellaneous Income: \$350.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$14,465.65; Note starting need was \$25,000.00.	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 0.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding: <u>\$14,465.65</u>	



As you see above, Grace is now accepting online through a QR code. We also continue to have online giving through our website.

Lenten Meal and Service Join us for a soup supper with bread, dessert, and beverages. The MEAL begins at 6:30 with WORSHIP at 7:15. A sign-up sheet is located in the Gathering Area. Proceeds to go to ELCA World Hunger Program. If you cannot sign up, please call the office at 269.945.9414, or email parishadmin@grace-hastings.org.

Save the Date SAC Trip to Meijer Gardens Join us for a fun trip to Meijer Gardens on Saturday, April 15. We'll be leaving Grace at NOON to see the beautiful plants and butterflies. Cost is dependent upon garden membership status. Please see the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for details on cost and to sign up. Questions? Contact Deborah Wilke.

Prayer Chain Grace is activating the prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

Adult Forum studies the Proverbs in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

Cross Walk Volunteer sign-up sheet is posted in the Gathering Area. We are in need of readers, refreshments, driver(s) to follow the walkers, and crossing guard so you can help make this ministry happen. The Cross Walk is Good Friday, April 7 at 9:30 a.m. We are hoping you can join us.

The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Pasty Sale Pick Up on April 1st. No foolin'! If you ordered pasties, don't forget that pick up is from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Thank you.

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. As we see Lazarus resuscitated from death in today's gospel, we also realize the gift we all share beyond death Jesus Christ.

Budget Planning Sheets are due on April 1 to the church office.

Easter Bulb Flowers are available for \$10.00 each. Please place order on Brenda's desk in the office with payment. Orders due April 3rd.

Alpha Women's Center is moving. Please join them for an open house **TOMORROW, Monday, March 27** from Noon until 7:00 p.m. at their new location at 533 West State Street here in Hastings. Please see the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for more information.

Mark your calendar for our Special One Service Only Worship on April 30th at 10 am. Come and celebrate with a meal afterwards and hear some wonderful music.

Save the date May 7! Thornapple Players presents *Into the Woods*. Look for a signup sheet, so can plan to sit together. Cost for tickets are \$10.00 for Adults and \$8.00 for Senior Citizens and Students. Please use cash for this event, as Thornapple Players do not accept the church charge payment.

Connections – Barry-Eaton Health Department The BEHD has started a new program called *Connections* which helps people find needed services for health, food, housing, and transportation. Please see the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for more information and directions on how to access these services.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday
Worship service
at 7:15 pm
April 6, 2023

Cross Walk
Good Friday
at 9:30 am
April 7, 2023

Good Friday - Tenebrae
(DARKNESS)
Worship service at 7:15 pm
April 7, 2023

Sonrise
Worship service
at 8:00 am
April 9, 2023

Festival Worship
The Resurrection of our Lord
Worship service at 10:45 am
April 9, 2023