Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church March 26th, 2023 Fifth Sunday in Lent



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. At the Easter Vigil we will

welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

Welcome: Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church. This is a safe space to bring your whole self. If there are ways we can make participation in worship easier for you, we will do our best to accommodate.

Worship: *Masks*: DuPage County community level is **Low**. Since we are at the low level, masks are optional in our building.

Communion: All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

Passing of the Peace: It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

Physical Distancing: It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

For those worshiping from home: Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You will need your communion packet, this service folder, and if your phone is convenient, you can use it to pass the peace. Lighting a candle hallows your worship place. We distribute packets of pre-consecrated bread and wine (gluten free option is available) for those who call the church office. We are here for you!

Children Welcome: Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages. Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type. Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.

PRELUDE

Gathering

The assembly stands as they are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Holy God,
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

Hymn 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.

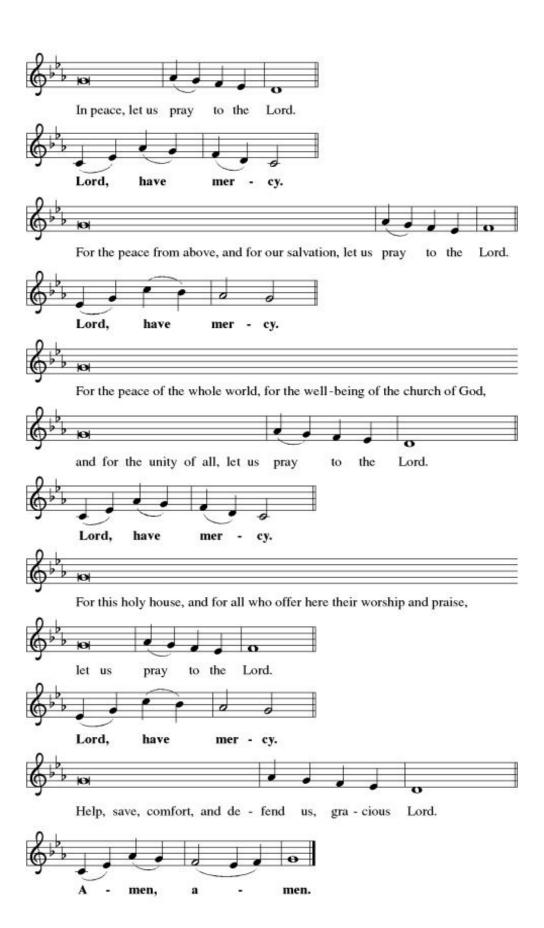
- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,O fallen human race!Look and be saved through faith alone,be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

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



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.

Assembly is seated.

YOUNG AT HEART SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd

Word

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."

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, "Prophesy 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, "Prophesy 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."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 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 plenteous redemption.

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands as they are able.

I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will never die. (John 11:25, 26)

THE GOSPEL READING: John 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to John, the Eleventh chapter.

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.

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

All are seated.

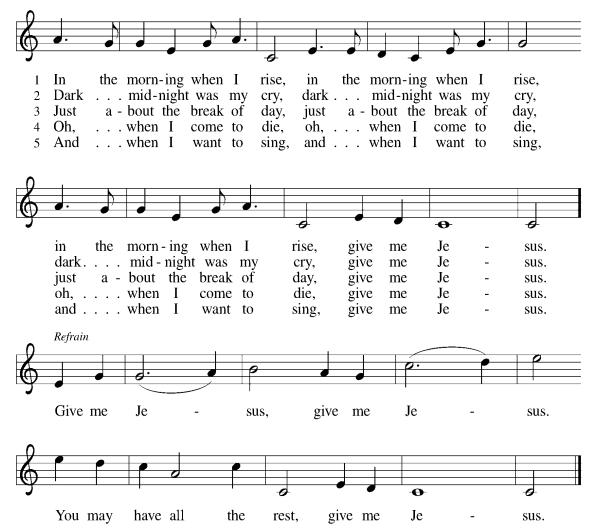
SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd

HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Me Jesus

Hymn 770 Verse 1,2,4,5



Response to the Word

The assembly stands as they are able.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's 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

All are seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

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. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

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. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness especially for Toni, Penny, Ken, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, Gale, Don, Ron, Nancy and Cor. 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. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

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. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

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. Merciful God,

receive 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.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like "Peace be with you." If you have your phone available text a word of peace to someone who is worshipping alone.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

Offering Reflection

The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.

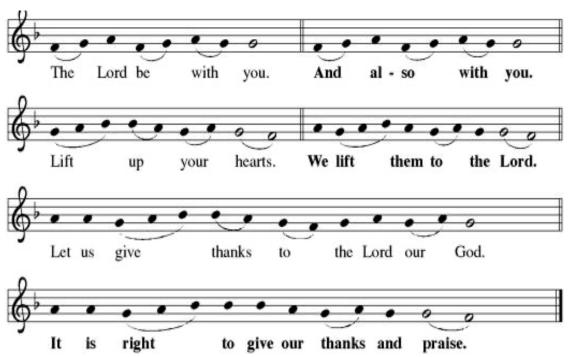


God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.

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 assembly stands as they are able.



PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER ... join their unending hymn



The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.

.... We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

COMMUNION

All are seated. As we sing When Peace Like a River, please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

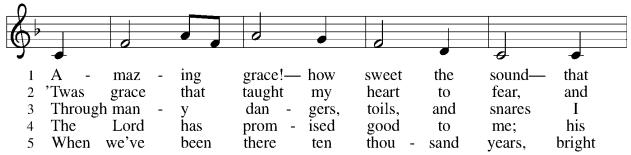
Amen.

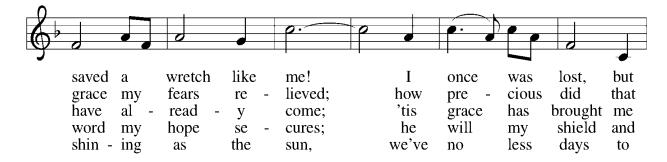
BLESSING

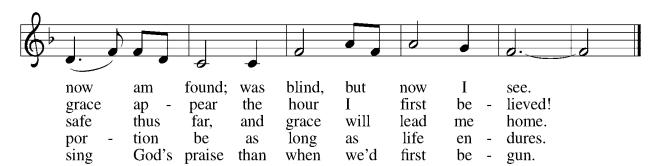
God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy, The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound Hymn 779 Verse 1,2,3 and 5







DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

We thank you for your ministry here today:

Presiding Minister Pastor Adam Dowd

Assisting Minister Bob Eggert Organist Rosita Yao

Reader Raymond Silhan III

Guitarist Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Greeters Marilynn Sells

Art Kardatzke & Kerry Spitznagle Ushers

Acolyte Arlene Danielson Sherry Sejnost Video

Announcements -3-26-2023

This month the Wine and Candles are provided by Judy Padera.

Flowers today are provided by Cor Peterson in memory of her husband's Tom's 98th Birthday.

April 2 10:00 AM **Palm Sunday Maundy Thursday** April 6 6:00 PM

Movie Night – We will be watching Prince of Egypt

April 7 **Good Friday** 7:00 PM **April 8 Holy Saturday** 2:00 PM

Come and join us spruce up the church for Easter.

April 9 10:00 AM Easter

Easter Flowers Envelopes for Easter flowers are on the table in the narthex. Help beautify the sanctuary for the Easter season! A 6-1/2" potted lily is \$14.00, and tulips and hyacinth are \$12.00 each. Orders need to be in the church office by Monday, March 27th.

Easter Meal Boxes This Easter season the Children and Hunger Committee will again be organizing LoL's participation in the holiday meal program with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish. You may drop off nonperishable items until April 1. Please bring all perishable items to the church on Saturday, April 1, by 11:00 AM. Thank you very much for your generosity and your help.

<u>Lunch Bunch</u> In April, we will meet at Public Landing 800 W. 8th St., Lockport, on Tuesday, April 11th, at 11:30 am. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Laurie Gustafson at 630-964-0580.

<u>Senior Spirits</u> Thursday, April 13th at Noon. We will having the Darien Police Department join us. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please call Marilynn Sells at 630-927-9996.

Adopt a Plot Do you have a green thumb? Would you like to help make the landscaping at Lord of Life beautiful? Come to the Adopt a Plot meeting on Sunday April, 23 at 11 AM and see how you can help. If you have questions, please call Arlene at 630 918-7890 or Judy Padera 630-235-2195.

Feed My Starving Children On Saturday, April 22nd, from 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm, LoL has a set time to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. We will be hand-packing rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets, and shipped to reach the neediest children around the world. We can meet at the church and

carpool together. You can register online at http://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=4WV8EY or you can sign up at church or by calling the church office at 630-323-3161.

<u>Donations</u> - Please continue to support LoL with your generous contributions, either via the online donations, USPS or by putting them in the drop box outside the west entry. Thank you to everyone who have been coming out to do this. To access the secure electronic donations, go to our website at http://www.lordoflifedarien.com/ and click on the "Give" tab on the top right. With your help we will be able to continue to serve you and the community "Sharing God's Love."

Please pray for members:

Toni Blesy	Penny Scukanec	Jim Eckwall
Cor Peterson	Caryl Schaer	Gale Dyskie
Don Dibbern	Ron Matta	Nancy Swanson
Kerry Spitznagle	Ken Gulliford	•

A full list of relatives, friends and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday. A list will also be printed in the bulletin the first Sunday of the month.

Last Week's Giving – \$ 13,023.00 **Electronic Donation for the month of February** - \$1047.52

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	3/26	10:00 AM	Worship (Live Streaming)
		2:00 PM	Loving Word Worship
Tuesday	3/28	5:15 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday	3/29	7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time (AA)
Friday	3/31	9:30 AM	Cards
Saturday	4/1	9:00 AM	Seventh Day Adventist
			Deliver Easter Flowers
Sunday	4/2	10:00 AM	Worship (Live Streaming)
		2:00 PM	Loving Word Worship