



APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061 | 804-693-9098 | www.apostles-elca.org



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 | 10:00 AM

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.



RECONCILING *in* CHRIST



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info. A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is serving as our part-time interim pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at j80j84@msn.com (preferred) or pastor.apostles@gmail.com. Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children; 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

NAME TAGS

Please wear your nametag! Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

GATHERING

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.

PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones**.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection

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.

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"



- 1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
- 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
- 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

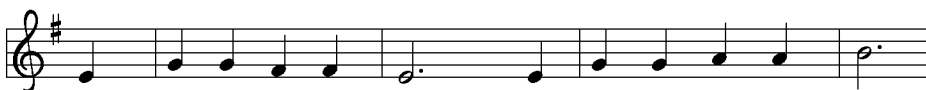
Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cational*, Darmstadt, 1687

APOSTOLIC 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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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."

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."

Response after the First Lesson

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 130

¹Out I of the depths

I cry to I you, O Lord;

²**O Lord, I hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my I supplication.

³If you were to keep watch I over sins,

O Lord, I who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you I is forgiveness,**

in order that you I may be feared. R

⁵I wait for you, O Lord; I my soul waits;

in your word I is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch I for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch I for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is I steadfast love;

with the Lord there is plen- I teous redemption.

⁸**For the Lord shall I redeem Israel**

from I all their sins. R

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.

Response after the Second Lesson

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 11th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

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.

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 concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

PASTOR JAY SERAFIN

Silence is kept after the reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #666

"What Wondrous Love Is This"



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

APOSTLES' 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 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We share a distanced sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you.***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Sit

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. To give online:

✚ **Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions**

✚ **From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453**

Please rise in body or in spirit

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

ELW #186

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

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

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

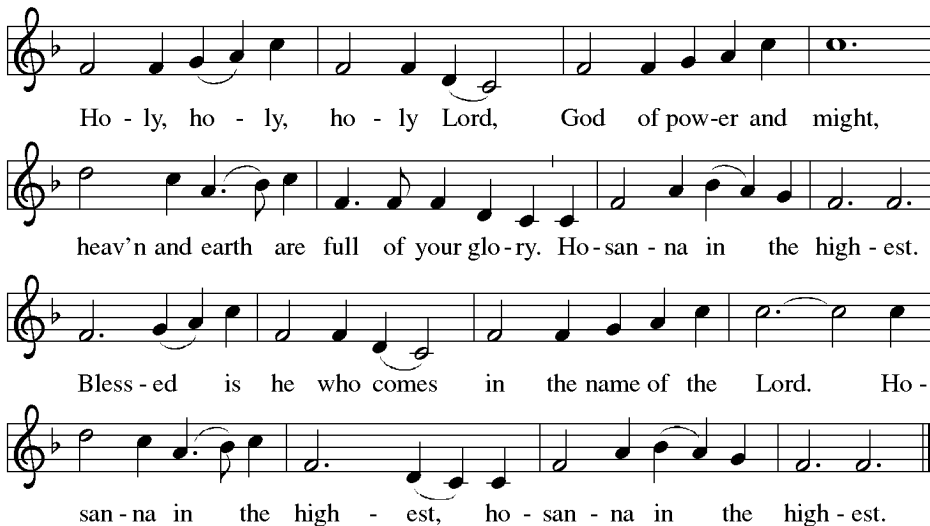
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface.

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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.

The thanksgiving continues.

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The great thanksgiving concludes.

...we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Sit

COMMUNION

All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.

You will be invited to come forward to receive the elements. After receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Let Pastor Jay know if you need gluten free wafers.

If you do not wish to take communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Holy Communion are the gifts of God for the people of God.

LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

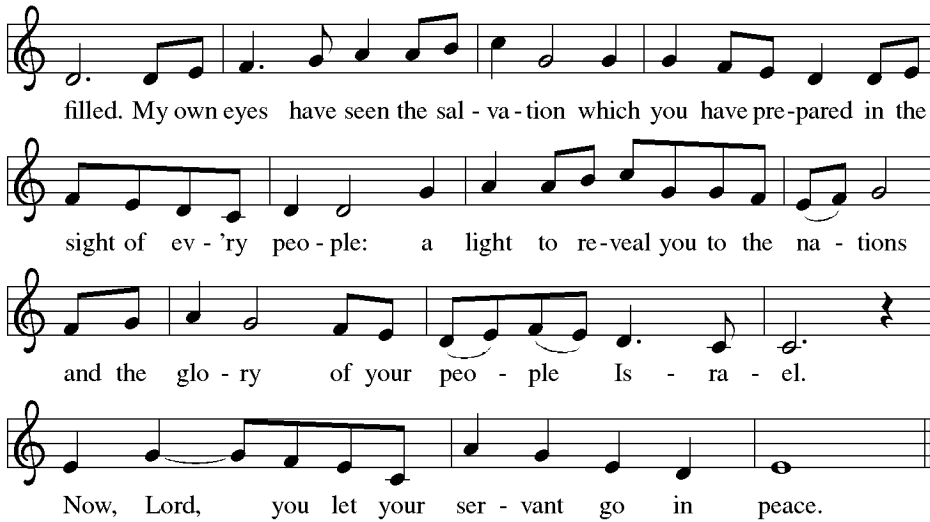


you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #886

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”



- 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. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Officiating Minister	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Accompanist	Kathy Merithew	Janet Gomez
Acolyte	Jade Hawkins	Ray Scholz
Altar Care	Lynn Scholz	Janet Gomez
Communion Bread	Irene Albert	Irene Albert
Greeter/Usher	Judy Wright	Betsy Liljeberg
Lay Assisting Minister	David Leunig	Pete Liljeberg
Lector	Nate Peterson	Irene Albert
Technology	Chris Hawkins	Chris Hawkins

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Scholz/Albert	Albert/Runk
Tellers	B. Grimes/N. Peterson	B. Liljeberg/L. Hodges

Thank you to Kathy Merithew
for playing for our worship service today!!

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Please take a minute to sign up to provide flowers for our altar – you can make your own arrangements from your garden – if you need vases, we have them. The signup sheet is in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Janet Gomez.

MID-WEEK LENTEN PLANS

For the Season of Lent on Wednesdays, we will have a soup and bread dinner at 6:00 PM followed by a Service of the Word worship service at 7:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to sign up to bring soup and bread – you are also welcome to bring a sandwich if you want.

DEVOTIONS FOR LENT

Devotions for Lent are available in the narthex – please help yourself.

NO FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK NEXT SUNDAY

We will not be having our “first Sunday” potluck next Sunday – we will instead have our Easter Brunch on Easter Sunday, April 9th, after the worship service.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has been making the prayer shawls – we always need more – if you are interested, please contact either Pam Moore or Janet Gomez.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord submits to suffering

Psalms 31:9-16

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Humbled to the point of death on a cross

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

The passion of the Lord

HOUSE BLESSINGS

As part of our Lenten journey this year, and as a way of becoming more familiar with the congregation and its members, **Pastor Jay invites you to invite him to visit you at your home and lead your family in a House Blessing.**

We Lutherans have an occasional service called “The Blessing of a Dwelling” which involves offering prayers that the presence and light of God may dwell in your home and God’s rich blessings may rest upon all who live and visit there. During the season of Lent, which begins at the end of the month, we will lift up House Blessings as a point of emphasis in our congregation’s ministry, and Pastor Jay would welcome an invitation to share in this observance with you and your family.

All that is needed is our setting up an appointment together and your having a candle and a way to light it when he gets to your home. This service works in any type of dwelling and even may be modified for places of business. While this will be an emphasis during Lent, Pastor Jay is available at any time of the year, by appointment, to share with you in the blessing of your dwelling.

Give Pastor Jay a call at 570-205-7506 and we can start planning this special service of asking God’s blessings and grace to remain in the place which you call “home.”

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The company that provides our offering envelopes has experienced delays in getting orders shipped. They hope to ship the envelopes sometime in January. In the meantime, if you use offering envelopes, please just use a pew envelope and make sure your name and offering envelope number are on your check.

EASTER CANDY NEEDED!

We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt after the worship service on Easter – we need candy and little Easter items to stuff the eggs with – there is a basket in the narthex to put your items – thanks so much!!

REFLECTION FOR TODAY: THE HOPE OF NEW LIFE

(FROM SUNDAYS AND SEASONS)

Hope overcomes despair for God's people: this is the message of the readings for today. The hope of new life is evident in the story of "dry bones" from Ezekiel. The children of Israel declare their hope is lost. The prophet's experience in the valley of dry bones inspires him to preach renewed hope to the people. Psalm 130 sings of hope in God and God's word. The work of God's Spirit gives hope of new life in Paul's letter to the church at Rome. The Gospel of John tells the hope-filled story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. The gospel gives us encouraging words to sustain us through the approaching despair of Christ's passion and brings us to the fulfillment of hope on Easter. Martha's wistful words to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here. . . . But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him" (John 11:21-22), reflect the hope of God's people in the face of despair, even in the face of death.

Each text encourages hearers to hope in God and God's word. How do Christians experience unfulfilled hope? This is the challenge for those who interpret today's texts for hearers. Israel's woes are not at an end; other psalms tell of struggle and pain; the Christ-believers at Rome are persecuted; Jesus who raises Lazarus from the dead soon dies. And yet hope is fulfilled as Paul proclaims "all Israel will be saved" (Rom. 11:26). Psalm 46 sings of God's presence in time of trouble. A preview of the hope of the resurrection will sustain believers in these final days of Lent (John 20:17). The Christian's confidence in the resurrection of the dead epitomizes their hope in Christ.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, David Muse, Michael Schlemmer, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner, and Jerry and Lena Woodlief

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Patricia Armentor, family of Sharon Bagley (friends of Judy Wright), **Paul Bauer, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Jim Bible** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Gisela Broughton** (Karen Stark's mother), **Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, the Clements family, Laura Clodfelter, Family of Kimberly Conine, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy and Kathie Davis, Mary Divelbiss, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Melissa Ethan, Laura Fleige** (Janet Gomez's sister), **Teresa Floersheim- Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Michelle Fowler** (Reida Avery's daughter), **Trudy Gies** (Betsy Liljeberg's niece) **Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy and Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Shirley Grimes** (Ben Grimes' mother), **family of Shirlean Hackman, Mike Hall, Chaneice Hayden** (Daniel Hayden), **the Heaney family, Carl and Kaleb Hess, Adam Hewko** (nephew of the Hansons), **Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Diane Hill** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **the Little Family, Marion Lucier, Lorraine Malkemus, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Jean McKee** (Lilly Frost's grandmother), **Sylvia Midgette** (grandmother of Krystle M^cMahan), **Keith Morgan, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Patricia Patel** (Spencer Hodges' daughter), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson and his brother, Carol Schlemmer, James Schollian** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Michael Scholz** (nephew of Ray Scholz), **Erin Seamonson** (Lara Jaeger), **Kathy Shackleford, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Judy Sowden, Linda Sutterfield, Dave Wagner** (husband of Nancy), **Cathy Walker** (friend of Linda Hodges), **Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (niece of Tina Britt), **Elizabeth and Steven White, Kitty Witty, Cory Woodlief, Jim and Carol Wolf, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Greg Yvonovich** (friend of Margaret and Ben Grimes), **Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA

Amayra, Hugolino and Manuela

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

MARCH 26, 2023 – APRIL 2, 2023

TODAY	10:00 AM	Worship Service & Blessing of the Prayer Shawls
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship
	11:30 AM	First Communion Instruction

Guatemala Mission Team Returns from Guatemala

MONDAY	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office
	7:00 PM	Worship Ministry Team Meeting
	7:00 PM	Way in the Wilderness
	7:00 PM	Men's AA
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Al-Anon
WEDNESDAY	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office
	6:00 PM	Mid-Week Lent Soup and Bread
	7:00 PM	Lent Service of the Word
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
SUNDAY	10:00 AM	Sunday of the Passion /
		Palm Sunday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

J. Dillon and August Crocker – March 27th | **Margaret Grimes** – March 28th

HAPPY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

Jack and Juliet Baur – March 31st

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