

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023



“Unbind Him” by Hannah Garrity
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Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton - St. Louis, MO 63109

Welcome to worship! We're delighted you are here!



Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**



We ask all members, guests, and visitors to please fill out the **attendance slip** in your worship folder and place it in the offering plate.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the worship service. Sharing that you're at Gethsemane on social media is encouraged! "Check in" using hashtag: #glcstlCheckIn.



Committed to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, Gethsemane is a *Bread for the World* and *ONE* congregation.



The presence, energy, and noise of **children** are always welcome in worship at Gethsemane. The sound of a child in worship is music to our ears. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. Additional space to move and Wiggle Bags are located in the narthex entry area.



Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



Holy Communion is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.

CHURCH STAFF

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am – 2pm and Fridays 8am – noon.

Church Office – (314) 352-8050

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Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Jesus, Life of My Life*

Ronald Besemer

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?
Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

P: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?
Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

P: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house. Hope lives here. So, come. Rest your weary bones.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.
Amen.

P: Friends, there is nothing that we have to keep hidden from God—not our anger, our grief, or the ways in which we have fallen short. In confession, we speak honestly and are met with grace. Let us confess our sin before God, knowing that God is already running to meet us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Jesus of Nazareth, I confess:

I forget that you know this feeling. I forget that you, too, have wept. I forget that you, too, have lost. I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity. Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you. Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel. Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us. Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you. Amen.

P: Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God, pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, and God would still love you all the same. Even in

our shortcomings, we are God's beloved. So, hear and believe this good news: We are saved by grace through faith.

We belong to God. We are not alone.

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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Public Domain.

GREETING

P: 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



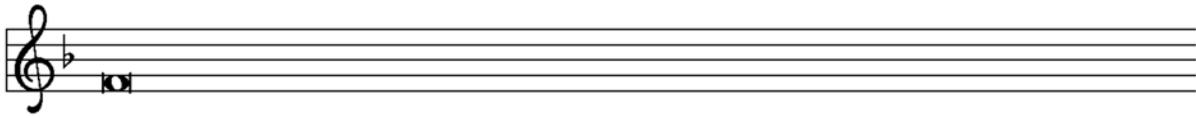
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



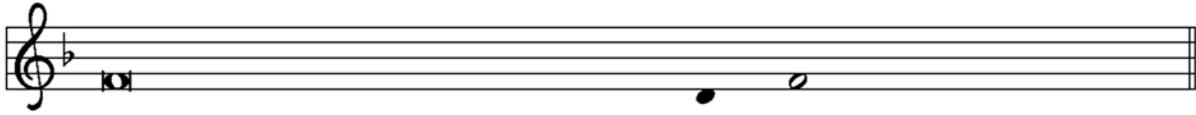
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



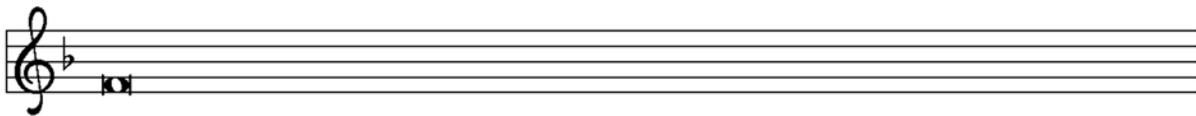
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



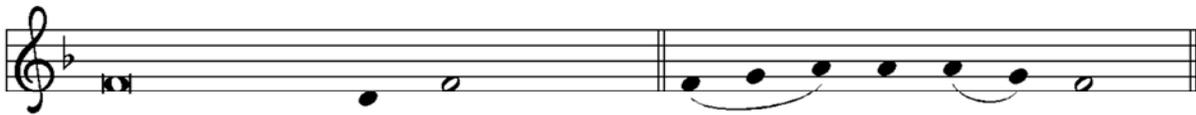
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



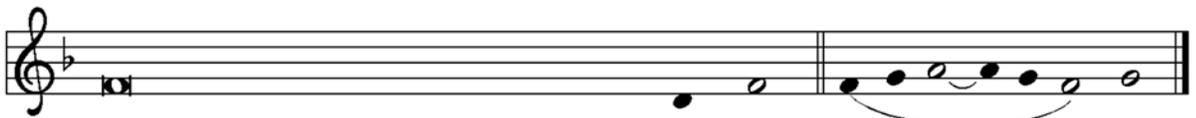
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. Creator God, why is bad news so loud? In the midst of gun violence, hunger, melting ice caps, and anxiety, it often feels like suffering has a microphone. How do we hear you? How do we know that these bones can live? Speak to us in your still, small voice and let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day. We know that good news rests in you, so help us listen to the hope that you breathe into every word. With open hearts we pray.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE 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, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

The word of the Lord.

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.

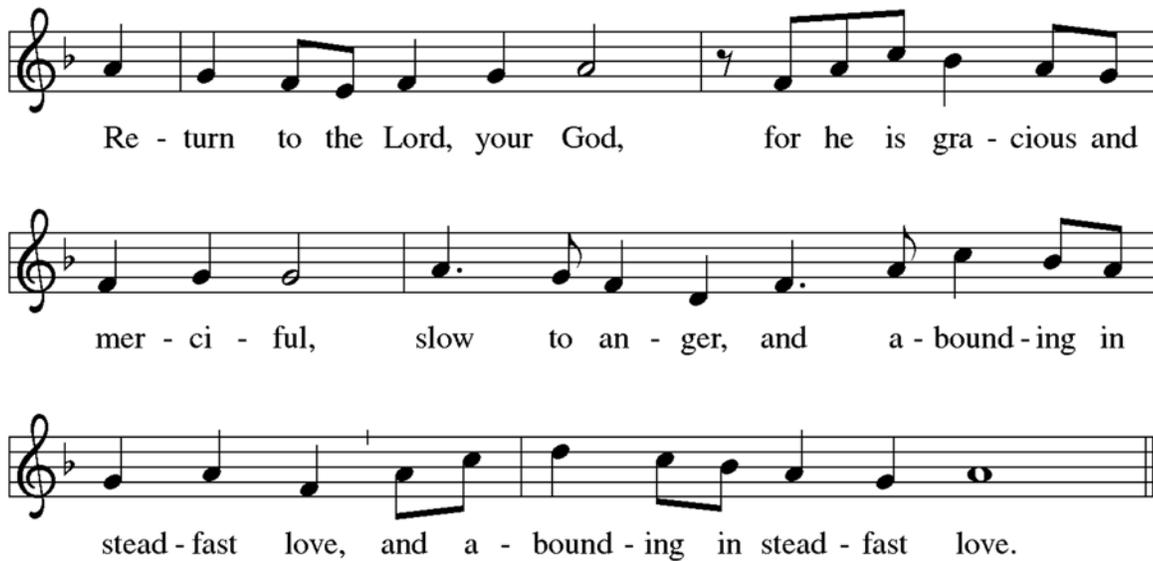
⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: 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 of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ is the Life*

Hymn# 927



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 into hell. 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.

THE PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

AM: 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.

AM: 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.

AM: 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.

AM: You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness especially Cindy, Mike, Damien, Neil, Sue, friends and family of Dave Hackmann, Kevin, Kathleen, Kathleen, David, the Tatum Family, Sarah, and those we name before you now either silently in our hearts or spoken from our lips. . . 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.

AM: 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.

P: 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 PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share a sign of peace with those around you.
*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING: *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

MUSICAL OFFERING:

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

Marilyn Biery

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and '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:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,', 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -', 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who', and 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'

P: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

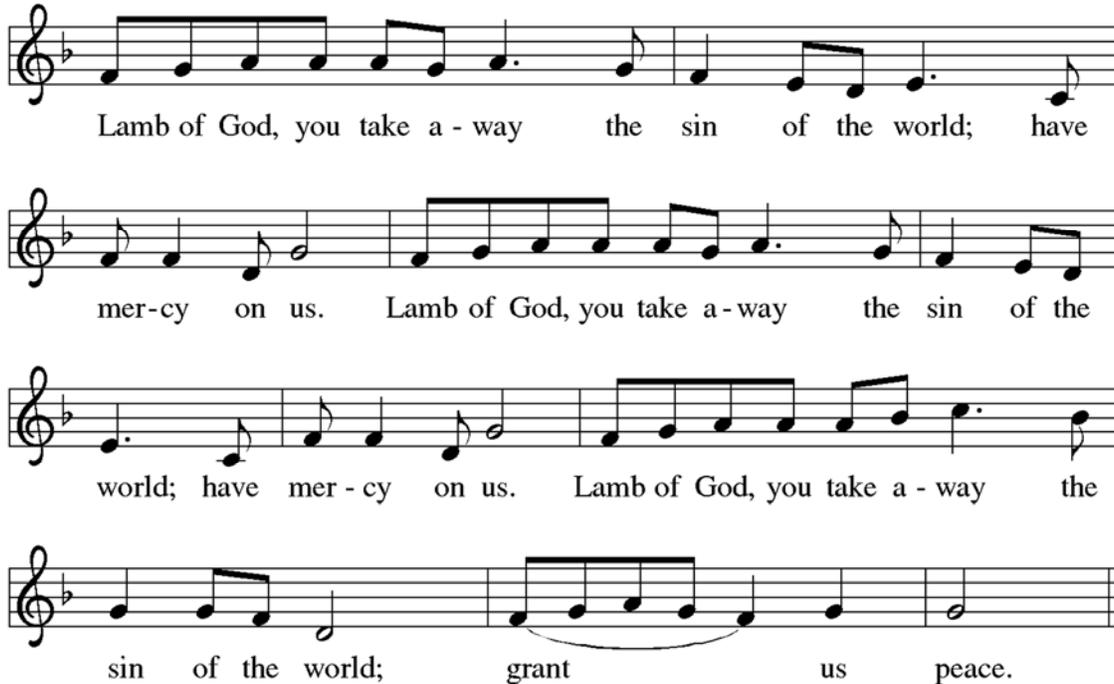
P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

The congregation is seated.

All who seek the Lord are welcome at Christ's table to receive the gift of God's grace! Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Those not receiving the bread and wine are welcome to come for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available from the pastor, upon request. The Blood of Christ is received by intinction, which means dipping your bread into the cup. Wine is available in the chalice nearest to bread, grape juice in the second chalice, and a third chalice of grape juice is reserved only for gluten-free wafers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

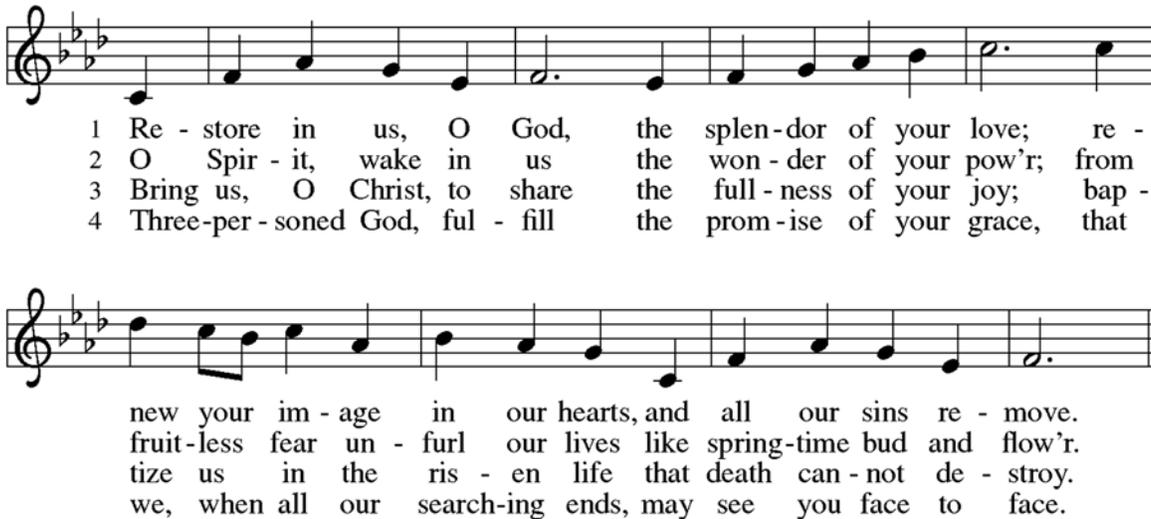
Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Restore in Us, O God

Hymn# 328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that
new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

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1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

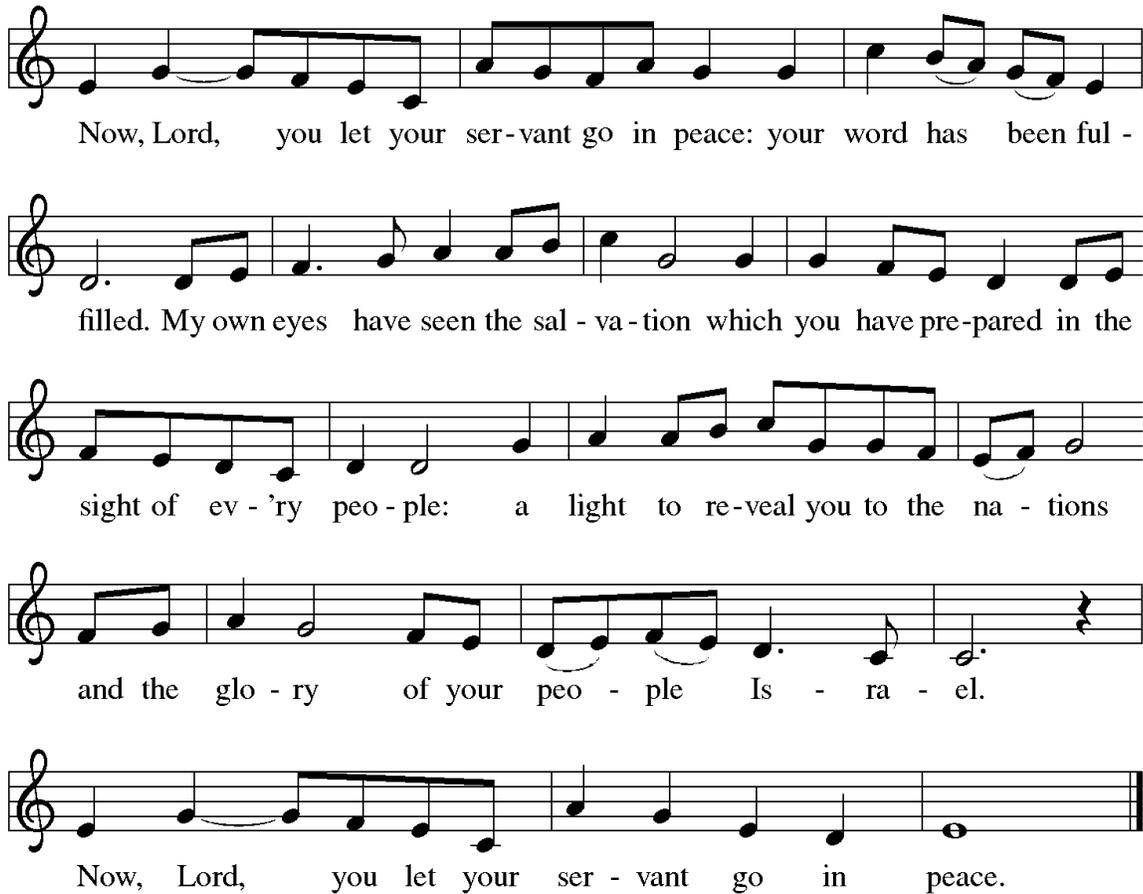
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P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

SEEKING LITURGY: Why do we do this?
Post-Communion Cantic

Dr. Aria Thomé

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. 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.

The congregation is seated.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

These are ways we are sharing God's Grace with our community and with the world!

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

BLESSING

P: 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: *You are the Way*

Hymn# 758



- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt. Music: DUNDEE, Psalter, Edinburgh, 1615. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

AM: As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking. Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass. Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us. As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for. In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace.

Amen.

POSTLUDE: *You are the Way, to You Alone*

C.S. Lang

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We invite all **members, guests and visitors**
to join us for coffee and doughnuts between services
in the Walter Eckman Fellowship Hall downstairs.

PLEASE JOIN US BETWEEN SERVICES AND AFTER THE SECOND SERVICE FOR AN EASTER FAIR TRADE SALE: We are excited to offer Fair Trade Easter & Spring items made by talented artisans from around the world: Easter Eggs from India, Kenya, and Vietnam, bread warmers, children's toys, jewelry, soaps, soup and baking mixes, and more! Help us 'bridge' the economic gap by promoting and purchasing Fair Trade. Together we improve artisans lives and communities by providing stable, honorable employment with fair living wages. Through us, God is blessing both our immediate neighbors AND our distant brothers and sisters in Christ. The sale will take place in downstairs in the fellowship hall. Thanks – Johanna Erdman

WORSHIP LEADERS		
PASTOR	Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
ORGANIST	Johanna Erdman	
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Cheryl	
GREETER	Norm Hopfer	Keith Paulson
USHERS	Cayce Morice and Kim Elliott	Rob Schainker and Steve Hetager
ASSISTING MINISTER	Rodney Jones	Angie Fulton
LECTOR	Matthew Christian	Steve Walentik
ALTAR GUILD	Flaxbart Family	
BREAD BAKER	Richardson Family	
WINE	Hartz Family	
DONUT PICK UP	Elliott Family	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	Needed	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lenten Worship: You are invited to join us this Wednesday evenings for the last Holden Evening Prayer Midweek service this Lenten season. Worship will be held in the sanctuary at 7pm.

Funeral for David Hackmann: Visitation for David Hackmann is today, Sunday, March 26th, from 4pm – 8pm at Michel Funeral Home located on Southwest Avenue. The funeral will be tomorrow, Monday, March 27th, at 10am at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

Seeking...a friend for Lent. Have you signed up to find a friend for Lent yet? There is still time. Check your Friday-news for a link to the form or contact the church office. The form will officially close April 1st.

Women's Luncheon: The next Women's lunch is tomorrow, Monday, March 27th. We will gather at Olive Garden on South Lindbergh at 11:30am. Please contact this month's host Mary Thuss at 314.963.5108 with any questions and to reserve your place.

March and April Big Ask: For the next two months, we will be collecting toilet paper and feminine hygiene pads (no tampons please) for our Food Pantry Partners: Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's. Unfortunately, these items cannot be purchased using food assistance. Are you up for a challenge? In 2020, we collected over 480 rolls and that was when it was difficult for everyone to find toilet paper. If every family brings in at least one roll of toilet paper for every member of their family in March and April, we can easily surpass that number.

SAVE THE DATE: The Church Council will be hosting a brief Congregational meeting on April 30th to approve the changes to the Constitution. This is the fifth Sunday of the month. There is only one service that morning at 9:30am. The meeting will be followed by a Volunteer Appreciation potluck. If you would like to help with the set up on Saturday, April 29th and/or clean up after the potluck, please contact a Council member or the church office for more information.

The Vigil of Easter: This is the Night! Join with siblings from St. Louis area ELCA churches and Bishop Candea for the Vigil of Easter, held this year on Saturday, April 8, at 7:30pm, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. This capstone to the great Three Days of Holy Week will include storytelling, the striking of a new fire, affirmation of baptism, and the first eucharist of the Easter season. With a light reception to follow, this is a great time of fellowship and worship with folks from across the region at the pinnacle of the church year!

Condiments & Can Openers: Gethsemane is collecting condiment packages (ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, hot sauce, tartar sauce, etc.) and can openers to stock the new Little Food Pantry. Items can be dropped off in the collection area next to the church mailboxes.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
March 26 – April 2, 2023

Today	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Coffee Hour, Sunday School, and Social Actions Team Meeting Worship Service: In-Person
3/27 Monday	10:00 am 11:30 am 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Funeral for Dave Hackmann Women's Luncheon Bell Choir Rehearsal Vocal Choir Rehearsal
3/28 Tuesday	8:00 am – 10:00 am 10:00 am	Carpet Cleaning of Narthex and Altar Area Bible Study
3/29 Wednesday	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Staff Meeting Last Midweek Lenten Worship
4/2 Sunday Palm Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Coffee Hour and Sunday School Worship Service: In-Person

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday, April 4 th	6:00 am - 7:00 pm	Election
Thursday, April 6 th	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 7 th	7:00 pm	Good Friday
Saturday, April 8 th	7:30 pm	Joint Congregational Easter Vigil at GLC
Sunday, April 9 th	8:30 am & 11:00 am	Easter

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Cindy Breed – strength to deal with ongoing health problems
Mike Fenton – health management, patience, understanding
Damien Gustafson - guidance
Neil Gustafson – understanding, continued healing, strength
Sue Hackmann – support and understanding upon the death of her husband
Kevin Kopplin – continued health and strength
Kathleen Mayhaus – recovery
Kathleen Moe – recovery from surgery
David Rikli – awaiting kidney transplant
Tatum Family
Sarah Unsicker - Discernment

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Don Jensen (bladder cancer)	<i>Fenton Family</i>
Dennis Fontana (strength), Stephen Colombo (strength, healing, understanding)	<i>Natalie Fontana</i>
Carol (comfort, strength, healing as she continues treatment), Marianne (comfort, strength, peace)	<i>Barb Johnson</i>
Bill & Connie Fals (peace, understanding)	<i>Rodney Jones</i>
Jason Fawe (healing, relief)	<i>Kohlberg Family</i>
Scott (successful healing from surgery), Dad (successful healing from 2 nd cataract surgery), people in Ecuador	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Blessings and thanks for answered prayers: Darlene’s mom and sister are cancer free (healing, less pain)	<i>McElwee Family</i>
Andrew and Eric Fanz and their recent adoption of Cole	<i>Penny Family</i>
Brother Rick (peace, comfort as he deals with his loss)	<i>Carleen Reinhardt</i>
My sisters Sue and Donna and Damon (healing)	<i>Kate Schejbal</i>
Aria’s niece, Natalie (comfort, healing during treatment for cancer, success in bone marrow match)	<i>Aria Thomé</i>
Mary Van Duzer (healing, recovery)	<i>Unsicker Family</i>
Mike and Liz (strength, healing)	<i>Yemm Family</i>

Artist's Statement

“Unbind him” by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by John 11:1-45
Paper lace over oil paint on linen

As I met with this text, I was drawn to Jesus' call for Lazarus to be unbound. To represent the fabrics used in preparation for burial, I wrapped a canvas in linen. You're not really supposed to do that. The canvas was already stretched and gessoed. It was ready to resist the oil paint medium I was applying. However, the texture of the binding cloth matters for this tactile text. I began to scrape the paint onto the woven strands. The linen fabric absorbed the paint as I scraped it on with a palette knife. In the final image, the linen shows through the paint and the paper lace design, representing the bindings.

Jesus' call for unbinding also includes the community. The foreshortened hands of the community, tasked with unbinding his body, reach in toward Lazarus. They reach through the concentric binding lines so that he can go free. Can these bones live?

In the strength of community, they can. The community made up of Jews, Gentiles, Samaritans, and others all joined one another at the tomb to grieve for Lazarus that day. They came to support Mary and Martha. Jesus arrives as the community mourns together. Jesus cries in his grief. Their collective tears create the backdrop for this paper lace design. This diverse and neighborly community is who Jesus calls on to do the unbinding. Jesus makes sure that the community knows about this miracle so that they can share the news. Can these bones live? Lazarus lives, and Jesus' miracle lives on in the telling.

—Hannah Garrity

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation Affirmation of Welcome

Christ's welcome knows no boundaries! Therefore, our welcome knows no boundaries and we invite all people to full participation in the life of the congregation.

We at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Saint Louis embrace...

People of any race or ethnicity...

People who are male, female, transgender, or any other gender identity...

People of any age...

People wherever they are, or wherever they have been, on their faith journeys...

People who are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated or partnered...

People who are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation...

People with a variety of political perspectives...

People who have, or had, addictions, phobias, abortions, or a criminal record...

People who are homeowners, renters, living with parents, or homeless...

People who are fully-abled, disabled, or of differing abilities...

People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...

People not mentioned above, all of whom are created and loved by God!

As we celebrate and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation, we pledge to ourselves and to all others that we will strive to live as a reconciling people in our life together and in our outreach to the world. We are committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith.

Sunday Funnies: The Sunday Flock is printed with permission through Pastoral Center.



Recycle Your Bulletin: If you want to keep your bulletin after today's service, please do so. If you are attending both services, please keep your bulletin handy. Bulletins placed in the basket in the narthex will be reused. Thank you.