



**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**March 26, 2023**

**WELCOME & INSTRUCTION**

*Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.*

**GATHERING**

In the Name of the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**ORDER OF CONFESSION**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving God, we have turned against you.

By our thoughts, words, and deeds, we have broken our relationship with you and with each other. *Breathe*

Gracious God, when you showed us love, we have thought and spoken poorly of our neighbors. *Breathe*

God of Abundance, when you provided for our needs, we ignored the needs of others and often justified our wants. *Breathe*

Consoling God, when you said “do not be afraid,” we allowed fear to fester, giving birth to anger and hatred of the other. *Breathe*

Empowering God, when you made us caretakers of the earth, we hurt your creation with our greed and selfishness. *Breathe*

Merciful God, often we do not recognize our own sinfulness though we are quick to point out the sinfulness of others; *Breathe*

God of Compassion, at times, we believe we are unforgiveable and we do not trust in the capacity of your Spirit. *Breathe*

Redeeming God, **Forgive us, transform us, empower us by your grace. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you. **Amen.**

**HYMN** | What Wondrous Love is This

ELW 666



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

## 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.**

## PRAYER

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.**

## 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."*

<sup>1</sup>The 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. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I 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."

<sup>7</sup>So 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. <sup>8</sup>I 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. <sup>9</sup>Then 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." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then 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.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I 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."

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL READING | John 11:1-45

*We are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

*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.*

God is with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But 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." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus 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. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup>She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup>When 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.” <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The 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. <sup>32</sup>When 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.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

**MESSAGE |**

Rev. Jim Muratore

**BREAKOUT QUESTIONS**

- When/Where have you experienced resurrection? Consider a time when you or someone you know “came back to life.” What were the circumstances surrounding the individual or community? What was the result?
- Where do you hope for resurrection? What might that look like?

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

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

*A brief silence.*

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Guide our Bishops Elizabeth and Bill as they lead your church through turbulent times. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Protect our local water ways, the Jones Falls and Stony Run and restore green spaces in neglected neighborhoods. 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 and reveal to us our role in your work of justice. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness. We pray for Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Luke and Melissa, Mary, Allison, Nathan, Shay, and Zoe, Buddy, Katie, Scott, Roman, Angel, Noah, Pam, Jim, Quinn, Charles, Joe, Htet (Tet) and all whom we name now.... 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.**

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.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at [www.churchontheavenuehampden.org](http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org). You can also sign up for automated giving.*

## 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.

## COMMUNION

*The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.*

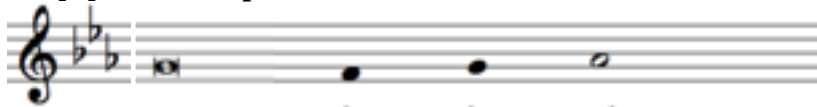
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



[P] The Lord is here



[A] God's Spir - it is with us



[P] Let us lift up our hearts



[A] We lift them to our God



[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God



[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right that we should always and everywhere give thanks and praise to you, O God, our Father and Mother, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Breathe your Spirit on us, O God, and saturate these gifts of bread and wine in the presence of Christ, that as we await his return, we may grow to love one another. Let us be nourished by this sacrament, this visible sign of your + invisible grace, to live in your abundance.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

And so we have this meal. Simplicity and mystery bound together. And though we cannot fully comprehend its meaning, we share, we remember and we trust in the promise of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

**Blessed be God forever!**

### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Communion is served by way of intinction. Come forward in a counter clockwise circle. Hand sanitizer is available at the altar for your use. A dab'll do! Receive the bread in your hand and dip into the cup. The clay chalice is reserved for gluten free recipients. If you wish not to receive you are welcome to remain seated or come forward with crossed arms to receive a blessing. ALL are welcome to come and receive without exception.*

### **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.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **LENTEN EVENING PRAYER | Thursdays, 7:30pm**

March 30<sup>th</sup>

#### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am

Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm

Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm

Easter Vigil, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am

#### **THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | Saturdays 11am-4pm**

Contact Cheryl Conrad if you would be interested in helping run the thrift shop!

#### **LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS SUPPORT FUND**

As we all know, the cost of groceries has been steadily increasing. While they have been able to take advantage of the produce giveaways here at the church, it has still been difficult to stay in budget. You can give to this fund separately from your regular offering through our online giving portal at [churchontheavenuehampden.org](http://churchontheavenuehampden.org) and by clicking on LVC SUPPORT FUND.

**THANK YOU** for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry together. You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal.

Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at

<http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>.

### **BENEDICTION**



God is with you! **And also with you!**

Go into the world with gladness; Be of good courage;

Hold fast to that which is good; Render to no one evil for evil;

Strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; Help the afflicted; honor all people;

love and serve God who blesses you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** | Restore in Us, O God

ELW 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.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**