

# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran

5th Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023

**PRESERVICE MUSIC:** *Messiah Bells*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God...

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" ELW 886**  
(Verses 1-4)

**KYRIE:** *(spoken)*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

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 mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## RESPONSE: "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" – ELW 335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.



*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

## GREETING and PRAYER:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: **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

<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, "Prophecy 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.”

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

## **PSALM 130**

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

<sup>2</sup>**LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!**

<sup>3</sup>If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>**But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

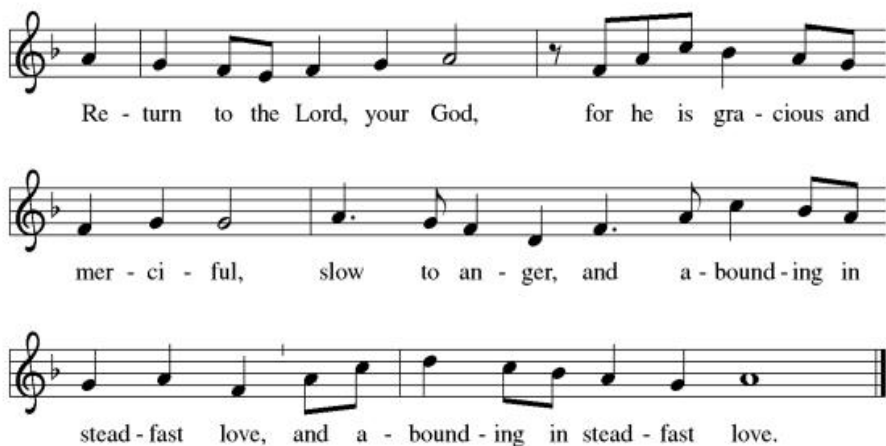
<sup>6</sup>**my soul waits for the LORD  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.

<sup>8</sup>**It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.**

**GOSPEL VERSE:** *Holy Communion Setting 3, page 142*



## GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 11th chapter.

C: **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.

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

**SERMON SONG: "You Are the Way"**

**ELW 758**

## SERMON

### APOSTLES' CREED

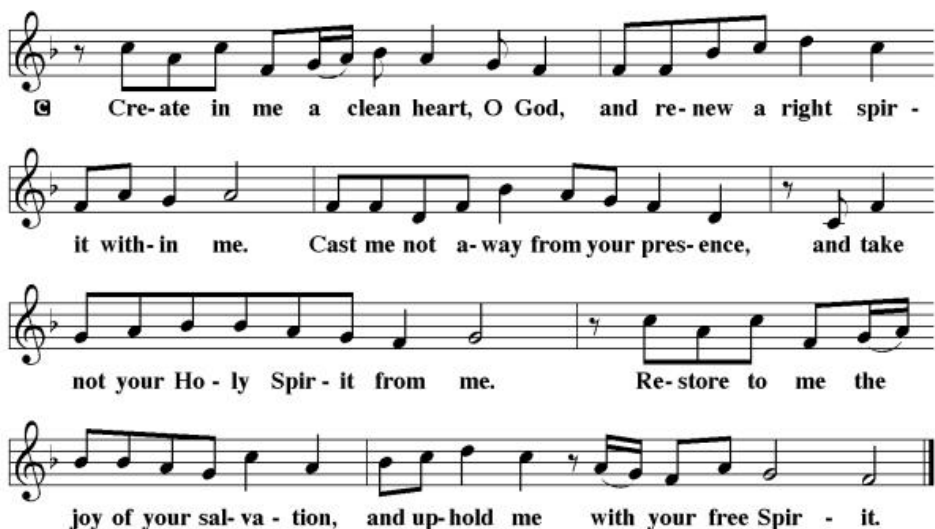
I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth,

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.

**OFFERING:** *Messiah Bells*

**OFFERTORY SONG:** "Create in Me a Clean Heart" - *ELW Service Music 186*



The musical score is written on four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir -". The second staff continues the melody and lyrics: "it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take". The third staff continues: "not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the". The fourth staff concludes the piece: "joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it." The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER:

God of grace, in Christ you bring new life to dry bones. We offer these gifts in love that they may bring refreshment and renewal to a broken and hurting world. We ask this through Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## PRAYERS:

Lord of creation: We thank you for the blessings of the earth, for the beauties of sea and sky, for fish and birds, for the evolution of all beings in times and ways that are beyond our imagination. Create in us the desire to be better stewards of your amazing creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of praise and worship: We thank you for the church in its many expressions: some continuing old traditions, others exploring new ways of worship, all of them serving you. Create in us a praise that wells up in our midst and joyfully spills out into the world!

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of compassion: Teach us to work on behalf of those who lack the basic life securities we may take for granted. We give thanks for provisions shared with our community neighbors through the work of the Roseau Area Food Shelf. We give thanks for provisions shared with our global neighbors through the work of Lutheran World Relief. Inspire in us the desire to extend your love and care for neighbors everywhere.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of community: We give thanks for the joy of being in relationship with You as our heavenly parent and our spiritual leader. Strengthen our connections with our brothers and sisters of this faith family. Unite us in prayer, plan, and purpose that we might know and do your will in this time and place.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of healing: You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness (*especially*). 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.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.

### **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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG: “Day by Day”**

*ELW 790*

### **DISMISSAL:**

**Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

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