



March 26, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, March 26th 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year A
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WELCOME

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † One God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

O mortal, can these bones live?

Only our Creator knows.

O people, place your hope in Christ.

With God there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

Let us bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us, may become visible. So that the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by God's grace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Eternal God,

You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring bad habits too risky to change. Forgive us, we pray. Bring your life-giving grace into our bones, weave our sinews with Christ's strength, and fill us with the breath of the Holy Spirit, that we may embody your love and share your goodness with all of creation. Amen.

O dry bones, hear the Word of God! Jesus Christ dwells in you and the Spirit of God showers you with grace and mercy. God, who raised Christ from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. This is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ † all your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

You are resurrection and life. As we worship you this day, show us who we are: bearers of good news and messengers of your love. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, inspire us, guide us, and comfort us. In Christ we pray.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

This Is My Father's World

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901
 Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.

READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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."

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. 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. Then 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." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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.' Therefore 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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

Out of the depths I cry to you!

O God, hear me! May you be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If you should number the times we stray from you, who could face you?

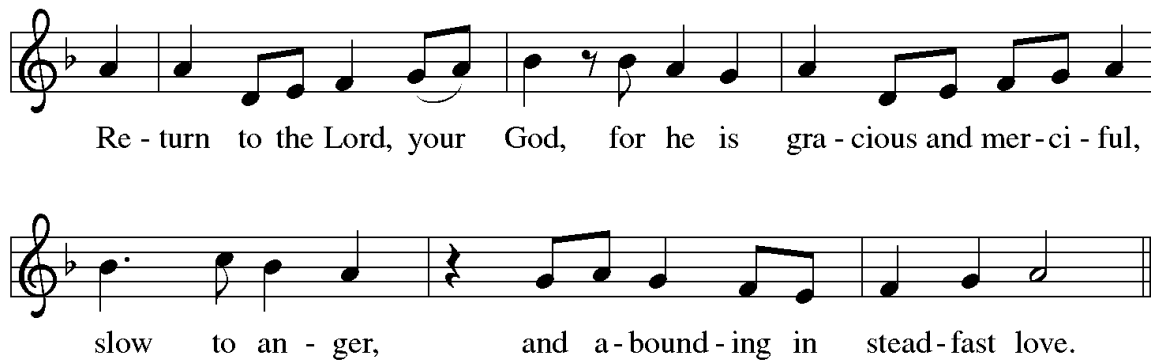
Yet you are ever-ready to forgive that we might be healed.

I wait for you, my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for God more than those who keep watch for the morning.

Wait for God, for with God there is steadfast love; with God you will know mercy and love in abundance.

For God will forgive all your sins and is your redeemer. Amen.



GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

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

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not

have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW 773) I'm sorry, but lyrics are unavailable for this song...

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. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Without the breath of God, we are dry bones, and without the Word of God we are dust. With gratitude, let us offer our lives to the Creator of all life.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,
Receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your Word. We thank you for raising us up and joining us together as your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Christ. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

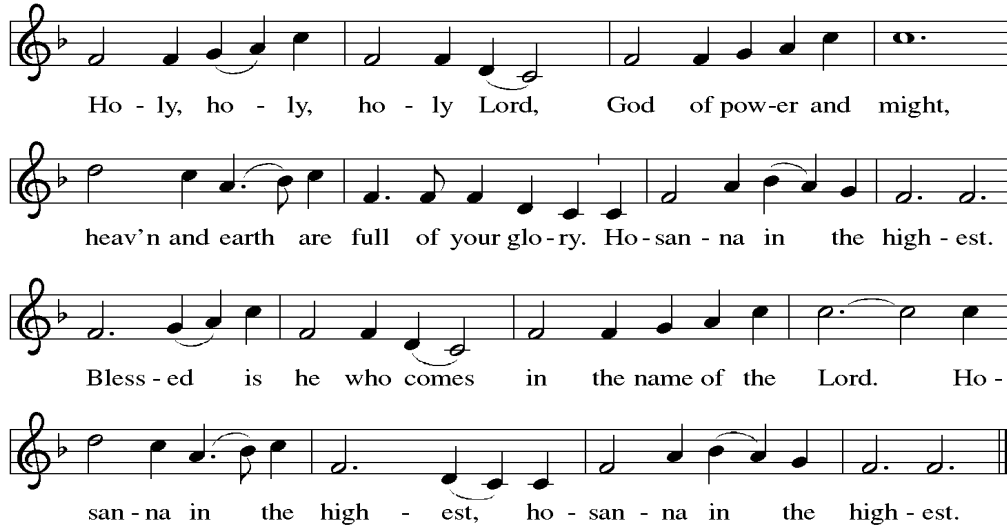
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength and life, in even the driest valleys.

COMMUNION HYMNS

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;

for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895

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Just As I Am, without One Plea

The musical score is written in a three-system format. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871
 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

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 care for the world with your love in our hearts.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Creator wake your flesh with life anew,

May Christ weave strength and courage into your bones,

May the Holy Spirit breathe joy in your presence,

May the Three In One deliver you from dryness and parched places,

And may the Holy God † Triune saturate you with hope, renewal, and peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

1 What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms?

what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;
 Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1919
 Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Where we tend to see hopelessness in the world, O God, give us vision to see what you are doing — and to join your life-giving work. Welcome to worship.

“To experience genuine human love, to be part of a community of love is to experience the presence of God.” —John J. McNeill

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John’s at (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord’s Supper with us.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Easter Egg Hunt: St. John’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, April 2nd following worship! All children are welcome! We will gather for Fellowship, read the Easter story, make a craft, and end with a candy-filled Easter Egg Hunt!

Pastor Maggie’s Book Club. Monday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing *If God Is Love, Don’t Be A Jerk: Finding A Faith That Makes Us Better Humans* by John Pavlovitz.

Thank You! The family of Pat Poeske would like to thank everyone who helped and was a part of Pat Poeske’s Celebration of Life. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Adult Study! Are you interested in learning more about Lutheranism and the roots of our faith? Are you wanting to discuss how faith and life intersect in our day to day lives? If so, please let Pastor Maggie know.

New Pictorial Directory. Say cheese! We are excited to announce a new church directory will be coming soon and hope to see all your beautiful smiling faces in the directory! There are 3 days you can schedule a session to have pictures taken. The dates are April 10th, 11th, and 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the church parish hall. You are welcome to bring pet/s to be photographed with you. We hope all will schedule a no sales pressure session. Photo examples and a pricing brochure are in the narthex. You can schedule your picture taking session, using the QR code located on the sign in the narthex, or through the link on the home page of our church website www.stjohnwausau.org For those who do not have electronic means to schedule a session or for anyone who may have questions please contact Jan Mueller dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com. For those who are unable to have pictures taken at the dates and

times listed above, you may submit a photo for the directory. There is a \$15 charge to submit your photo, please contact Jan Mueller for more information. Smile!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John March 26 – April 2

- Today**
9:00 a.m. Worship
- March 27**
6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club
- March 28**
8:30 a.m. Quilting
9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting
- March 29**
5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner
6:30 p.m. Lenten Service
- April 1**
10:00 a.m. First Communion Class
- April 2**
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School