

**Sunday, March 26, 2023**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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**Pastor James Muske**

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, March 26, 2023 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

**2 MINUTES OF SILENCE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER & CARE LIST:**

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES** will continue in person and live streamed throughout the Lent Season. Potluck at 5:30pm & Worship at 6:30pm.

**READERS NEEDED FOR PALM/PASSION SUNDAY!** See Pastor James if you are willing to read next Sunday, we need four more readers.

**ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA** Performance on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, at 7:30pm. See poster in Narthex for more information.

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS** Today following church, Darlene Christensen, Mary Vukelich, and Kathy Carlson will be providing health care directive forms and providing instructions on how to fill out the form and guidance around questions to consider when making your decisions.

**EASTER LILIES** sales today during coffee time. Signup sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall today. Price is \$15. Buy one as a memorial to loved ones and to decorate the church for Easter.

## **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE**

**April 2**, Palm Sunday one service 9:00am in person & live stream

**April 6**, Maundy Thursday – Dinner Church at 5:30pm (no live stream)

(Potluck & Worship together in Fellowship Hall)

**April 7**, Good Friday one service 9:00am in person & live stream.

**April 9**, Easter two services 8:30am & 10:00am in person and live stream.

## **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**March 27, 2023 – April 2, 2023**

Monday	3/27	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/28	9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	3/29	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship in person & online
Thursday	3/30	8:00 am	ROMEOS
Sunday	4/2	9:00 am	Worship & Baptism in person & online

**OPENING HYMN: “Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #886 ELW**  
*(Please Stand on the Last Verse)*



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.

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✚ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God,

**your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated*

### **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, “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.” <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 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. <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.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 130 (Read Responsively)**

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

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For 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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But 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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If 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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand*

**GOSPEL READING: John 11:1-45**

**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.      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY:      “Oh God Who Gives us Life”      on screen**



- 1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
- 2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
- 3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

*Please stand if able*

## **APOSTLE'S 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**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

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 (specific synods, dioceses, or congregations may be named), and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing (local natural places may be named). 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.**

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.**

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. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation (specific ensembles may be named) and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**     *Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

## OFFERING

*Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## OFFERTORY 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

## 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.

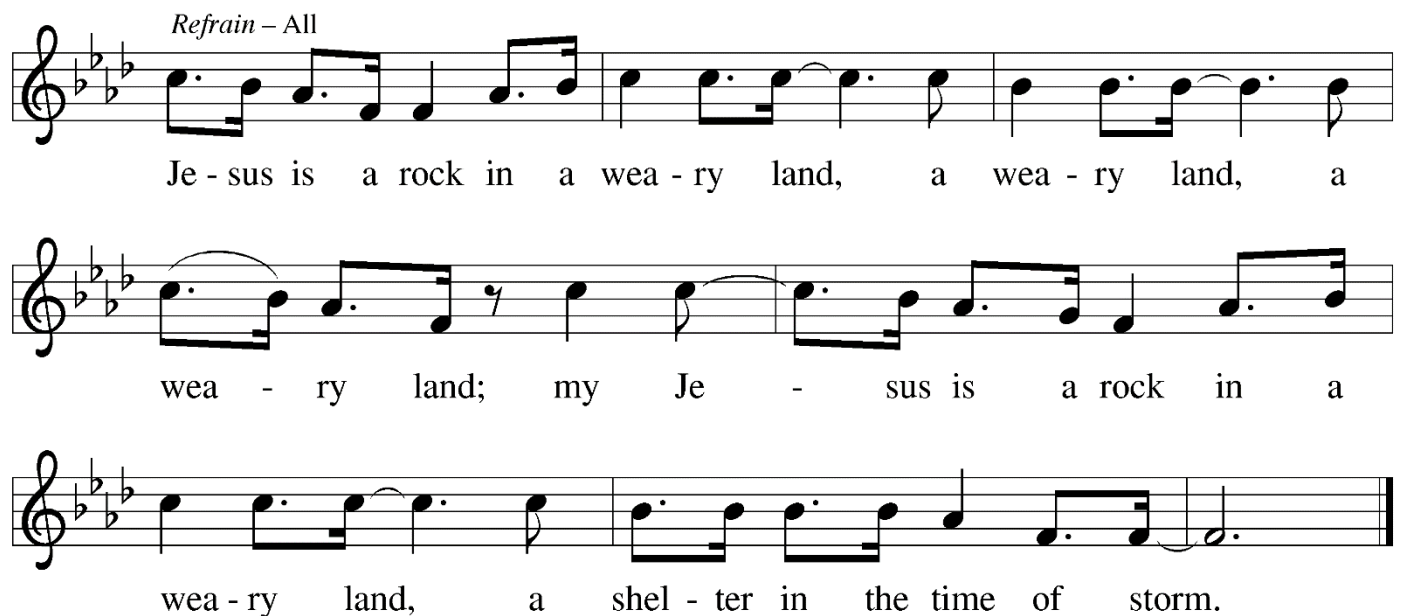
## BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: "Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land" #333 ELW

*Refrain - All*



Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a  
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a  
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

Leader or All

1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a  
 2 When Je - sus was on earth, . . . . . the . .  
 3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .

mum-bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -  
 flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -  
 whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

*Refrain*

- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.  
 ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.  
 - to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.*

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Digital Hymnal/Jim Christensen

Greeters: Carolyn Morris

Ushers: Dick & Sue Stebbins

Lector: Sue Samuelson