



Lent

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 29, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Almighty God,

C: 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

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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.”

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 130

AM: ¹Out ¹of the depths

C: **I cry to ¹you, O Lord;**

AM: ²O Lord, ¹hear my voice!

C: **Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my ¹supplication.**

AM: ³If you were to keep watch ¹over sins,

C: **O Lord, ¹who could stand?**

AM: ⁴Yet with you ¹is forgiveness,

C: **in order that you ¹may be feared.**

AM: ⁵I wait for you, O Lord; ¹my soul waits;

C: **in your word ¹is my hope.**

AM: ⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch ¹for the morning,

C: **more than those who keep watch ¹for the morning.**

AM: ⁷O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is ¹steadfast love;

C: **with the Lord there is plen- ¹teous redemption.**

AM: ⁸For the Lord shall ¹redeem Israel

C: **from ¹all their sins.**

THE GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

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."²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"²⁷ She 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."²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ 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.³² 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."³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"³⁷ But 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.³⁹ 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."⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² 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."⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"⁴⁴ 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."

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

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

SERMON

It is Going to be OK

Pastor Jim Kruse

My older brother, Don, found an old scrap of Masonite in the storage closet of our cabin in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. And with some light blue paint that we found in a half used can, he carefully painted the words.

We had been talking, my two brothers and I, about what we would write the whole time we were scrounging around for the materials to say it. During our regular ritual of fun and games in the thick forest of trees that surrounded the cabin that day, one of us came across the body of a rabbit, still fresh in death. I do not remember which my two brothers found the rabbit, but I do know that it was not me. I know that because if it had been me, I would never ever to this day have been able to forget it. No, it must have been Wayne or possibly Don. Not me.

We had decided to suspend play for the day, and with an old rusty shovel we dug down a

few inches into the humus of the forest floor. Someone picked up the rabbit and carefully, placed the lifeless body into the depression. Again, I know it was not me because if it had been me, I would never ever to this day have been able to forget that I had done it. No, it must have been someone else who laid the rabbit in its grave. But each of us took turns pushing the dirt and pine needles over the top of it. This I remember clearly, because, when I close my eyes, I can still see the decaying organic matter of the earth laying on top of the yet to decay organic matter of the soft fur. That is an image I will never ever forget.

So here we were, finishing of the job with the Masonite marker. "Here lies Bunny," Don painted on the wood. "died June 17, 1961." And so began my introduction to the lifelong work of dealing with the end of life. We were only kids, 7 and 9 years old, but somehow we knew what we needed to be about that afternoon so long ago.

Death, we tell each other, is a part of life. Death, we tell each other, is the natural conclusion of the well-lived life. Nothing to fear. Nothing to make a big deal about.

But if that is true, then why do we struggle so much with it? Why does the death of a friend or loved one sit on our hearts with so such pressure and pain? Why is it that, after logging hundreds of hours in the woods around our Rocky Mountain cabin over the better part of my childhood, when I close my eyes, the event that is easiest to recall is finding and burying BUNNY?

Over and over again, we gather in worship spaces like Our Savior Lutheran Church to honor a dear creature of God's creation who has returned to the source of all life. We trudge back and forth to and from the cemetery so often that we begin to believe in the finality of it all. Surely, we think, nothing can be more stronger, more final, and more dominant to our living than our dying.

The dear friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha, are caught in death's grip as they see their brother, Lazarus, slip away in his illness. They had come to believe, as all of us have, that God gives into the hearts of those who love him, a spark of hope, a vision that life is more than its ultimate demise. And this hope had taken root in the relationship that Mary and Martha had developed with Jesus. His teaching, his ability to heal, his powerful words and insights into the presence of God, led them to believe that he could, if he wanted, push death back and keep it at bay.

But then, just when he is needed the most, just when the pleas of his friends are most desperate, Jesus turns a deaf ear. "After having heard that Lazarus was ill, " the Gospel tells us, "Jesus chooses to stay put for two more days."

With his refusal to jump, his refusal to go charging out the door and run at full speed to rescue Lazarus from the grave, Jesus is exposing to the light of day the little secret that we all know, but are afraid to talk about, for fear of being perceived as weak in faith. And that secret is that sometimes, maybe even most of the time, God is not acting on our behalf. God is just waiting. God has other things on his hand that we know nothing about. It is the little secret that the God of all that is and all that ever will be, is not always going to come running to rescue us, even from death, no matter how strongly we believe, and how loudly we call out. It is a secret too painful even to entertain as a possibility. And yet, there it is in black and white: "After having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was staying."

To the ears of the world this is a cold, callous, calculating Jesus who, after hearing of the death of his good friend Lazarus, sits down and waits for two more days before heading off to Bethany—one day to give time for Lazarus to die, and another day to make sure he is good and dead. But to us who have died with Christ in baptism, these are merely the calm, unencumbered ways of the one for whom death has little to say.

We enter into relationships with the same calm demeanor, don't we? We make friends, we marry lovers, we cradle children, as though we believe that friends cannot hurt us, that marriages will last forever, and that our children will eagerly learn from our wisdom. But we also believe that when friends go their separate ways the friendship remains intact. We believe that spouses can find a kind of love that transcends life in this world. And we believe that, in the end, we must set our children free to find their own wisdom.

We who are Friends of Jesus, are either the silliest, most naive people who ever lived, or we know something about all of this that others do not know. We know that in spite of all evidence to the contrary, it is all going to be OK.

When Martha hears that Jesus is on his way to the house, she drops everything she is doing and runs out greet him, tears just streaming down her face. "Oh, Oh, Oh," she sobs. "If only you had been here. Things could have worked out so much better."

"Don't worry about it, Martha," Jesus calmly replies. "Your brother will rise again."

"Oh, I know all about that," Martha says. "You are talking about the resurrection of life at the end of all things. You are talking about then, I'm talking about now. I needed you now, not then."

Suddenly Jesus stops in his tracks, Martha at his side. He takes a step forward and turns around so that he is face-to-face with his dear friend, her eyes cast down in sorrow. "Martha, look at me. Look at me! I'm talking about now, not then. I am the resurrection. I am the life. Anyone who lives and believes in me will never die. It is going to be OK.

"Your brother will rise again."

And with this simple promise, Martha, along with the rest of us, is invited into the other, secret, hidden side of creation. The side where death takes its best swing and misses every time. The side where dried up dead bones rattle to life with the simple breath of God. The side where a tiny microscopic enemy has invaded the very cells of our being, is ultimately held in check. The side where fallen bunnies romp and play under the watchful eyes of lions and tigers and bears, unafraid and unencumbered.

The side where mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, friends and neighbors never die.

It is going to be OK. Thanks be to God, it is going to be OK.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

+Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

[A brief silence.]

As we journey through this holy season of Lent:

+ Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us find ways to be connected to you and to our neighbors in these days of physical isolation and anxiety. Enliven our faith to know that the Kingdom of God is indeed among us.

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

+ We lift up those communities where insecurity, violence, and fear are the norm. Help us to bring healing, wholeness, and safety to these siblings.

+ We give thanks for the medical services by Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem, for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

+ We hold in prayer Karen, Sabin, Amy, Lysle, Marilyn, Lil, Dave, Pat, David, Jean, guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

+ We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges.

+God, you call us to care for our neighbors. Inspire our leaders and guide us to be better advocates for the sake of each member in our community - especially those who have little power and no voice.

We pray hold in prayer those affected by the COVID-19 virus.

+ Bring peace and comfort to the families of those who have died.

+ Grant healing for those diagnosed.

+ Keep safe those whose health conditions make them especially vulnerable to this virus.

We lift up those

+ Protect medical workers, care providers, and first responders.

+ Sustain chaplains who bring prayer and care to those hospitalized or isolated in nursing homes.

+ We give thanks for all non-medical essential workers who continue to serve our communities providing food, medicine, safety, childcare, and other vital services.

+ Guide those working to improve testing and those working toward a vaccine and for our government and health organization leaders as they discern a path forward.

+ Sustain for those who are facing financial uncertainty due to loss of income. Help us to share generously.

+ Bless our ministry leaders as they explore care-filled and creative ways to gather online for worship, prayer, and fellowship. We give thanks for the grace-filled support our leaders have shown one another.

+ For all who anxious and worried, ground us in facts and center us in your love and peace.

+ During these days of physical isolation, grant us patience, humor, compassion, and courage.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness.

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

C: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sustain us in our journey:

+ Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

+ Open our eyes, ignite our hearts, and mobilize us to be instruments of your love, hope, and peace in the face of anxiety, violence, prejudice, fear, hate, and injustice.

+ According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Let us pray together:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

SENDING: GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US INTO THE WORLD.

BENEDICTION

PM: God the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C: Amen

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR LISTENING: *I Want Jesus* (African American spiritual), and *Wonderous Love* (North American folk hymn). These hymns can be found on line at www.youtube.com. Enter the hymn title in the search window.

Emergency Pastoral Care

For emergency pastoral care, please contact
OSLC Transition Pastor Jim Kruse at
206-919-9520 (mobile) or JamesKruse814@gmail.com.

Keep up with our Lenten willow branch!
It continues to grow in our sanctuary.
We'll try to provide a new photo of it each week.



Willow Cross in a Circular Bowl uses a time-honored art form to convey that our universe is rooted in Christ, who brings us into new life through his death and resurrection.

Readings for Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14--27:66

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via Connection Cards in the pews, or email office@oslciissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

JoAnne Naganawa cancer has returned, effective treatment, comfort and healing. (Marilyn Carlson)

Karen Gerde blessings and love on her wedding day in Eastern Washington this weekend. (Patty Gerde)

Sabin Thibodeaux a youth hit by a car and now in ICU. Strength, healing and comfort. (Bill Cash)

Amy Jackson healing for a broken shoulder. (Lyle & Alice Lewis)

Lyle Bentley recovering from brain surgery. (Don Robertson)

Lil healing, discernment for her doctors. (Cheryl Neeb)

Dave Carlson a kidney donor will be found quickly.

Pat undergoing heart valve replacement. (Cheryl Neeb)

David Woods strength and comfort following a kidney cancer diagnosis. (Lyle & Alice Lewis)

Jean Stanley healing for a broken pelvis and adjustments in her life (sister-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

For all affected by the coronavirus: healing, comfort, wisdom and peace. (Karen Hansen)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. [daughter of Josh & Rachael, granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson] (Dianne Tanner)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces new health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: **Marian James;**

Douglas Mandt (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur;** **Katie Moeller;** **Margot Inman;**

Ken Acker (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson;** **Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas** (Pr. Telyea); **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland;** **Randi Strom;** **Jeanne Kuipers;** **Talton Johnson;** **John Pass;** **Florence Kinnune;** **Carol Harbolt;** **Sandy Aldworth;** **Jen Winslow** (Wendy Winslow); **Larry Pruitt.**

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Amy Aldworth**

(daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Floyd Rogers** (Connie Fletcher); **Lori Anglin** (Janet Heck); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Jerry Duffee** (brother-in-law of Connie Fletcher); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson;** **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Expectant Mothers: **Jessica Murguia** (Cheryl Hauser); **Emily Wilson** (daughter of Ann & Larry Thomas) **Keeley Hanson** (Cheryl Leiter); **Yili Leiter** (Cheryl Leiter); **Elsa Walker** (daughter of Chuck Bachman & Wendy Winslow)

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Gustavo Hernandez** (Karen Hansen); **Jerry Duffee** (Connie Fletcher)

Members and friends serving in the military; Fire, Police and Emergency Room personnel.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For the success of students studying at the Japan Lutheran College and Seminary (Global Missions). **Henrik & Patty Christopherson.** Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

Thanksgiving: That **Marilyn Grey**, (mother of Mark Cron) has successfully moved to a beautiful and loving assisted living, and is in good care. (Tami Cron)