

March 29, 2020 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prayer of 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.

Lenten Symbol: Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. John 19:34

Psalm: Psalm 130 (Call and response)

L: ¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

C: ²O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

L: ³If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: ⁴Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

L: ⁵I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

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

L: ⁷O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love; with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

C: ⁸For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:6-11 ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

Gospel: John 11:1-45 (*Please stand as you are able*) 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.

Prayer call and response:

L: 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.*

L: God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its renewal. Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other natural disasters. Bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of life, we pray for those serving our country, that you may protect them, give them the strength and knowledge they need and guide them safely. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain especially our loved ones George, Tom, Dean, Marlene, Lloyd, Brian, Robert, Karl, Finley, Billie & Mark. Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors during this time on the unknown. Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of life, come and guide the minds of those working to discover a treatment to the COVID-19 virus. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, and clarity of mind, so that all peoples will be free from the threat of this ailment. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of life, we pray for the healthcare workers that are standing in the front line of this battle. We ask that You will grant them strength and protection. As they give of themselves in selfless service, may You fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be Your healing hands and feet! Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of life, we surrender to You all those who have been afflicted with the coronavirus. Grant them Your healing grace, merciful Father, so that they may recover swiftly and continue to be witnesses of Your love in their lives. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

Announcements - March 29, 2020 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

MSP & Cancelled Congregation Meeting: Due to the current circumstances we are not rescheduling our congregational meeting. In the best interest of the congregation the council feels we need to proceed forward with our call process. With that being said we have emailed out the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). If you did not receive a copy of the MSP please contact the office so we can get a copy to you.

Instead of holding a formal vote, all members of the congregation are encouraged to read through the MSP documents and share any questions or concerns you may have with the transition task force or a member of the church council. We kindly ask that you do this ASAP, so we can make necessary changes and submit the MSP.

Confirmation Class: An email was sent out with all the information on what you are to do from home. Email the office with any questions or if you did not receive this email.

SWAG: The 9-12th graders can join Michelle live on our SWAG Facebook page at 6:30PM on Wednesday evenings for a short lesson & devotion. A link was sent via email and is on St. Luke's website.

Worship: Join Pastor Kris on Facebook at 9:30AM on Sunday mornings and 7PM on Wednesday, April 1st. If you miss the live feed on Facebook or do not have Facebook you can watch it on our YouTube channel at anytime. A link was sent via email and is on St. Luke's website.

Sunday School: The Sunday school children can join Michelle live on our Facebook page at 8:30AM on Sunday mornings for a Bible story and short visual. A link was sent via email and is on St. Luke's website.

Food Shelf: Food Shelf donations are especially needed during this time of struggle with the Covid-19 uncertainty. Drop off your non-perishable food items in the box located inside the entrance near the alley door. Your items will be brought to the Zumbrota food shelf still at this time of closure.

Giving During Closure: At this time of closure please consider your financial gifts through online giving or by mailing your checks to St. Luke Church. Online giving helps keep our offering steady throughout the year. We offer the option to give one-time or recurring gifts online through Vanco Services. Everything you need to get started can be found on our website www.stlukegoodhue.org under Online Giving. You'll be directed to Vanco's secure giving site where you can enroll and make your gift. Sara Nolte, our treasurer is happy to help with any questions saramollenhauer@gmail.com or contact the office at 651-923-4695.

Those in need: If you know of anyone in need at this time please contact Pastor Kris, a council member or leave a voice message in the office.

Easter Plants: If you would like to purchase a Easter plant to be placed on the altar on Easter morning, email the office for a form or call Blooms on Broadway (651) 923-4380. Deadline is March 29th.

O'Reilly Scholarship - Seniors: The O'Reilly scholarship is posted on St. Luke's website at stlukegoodhue.org on the SWAG Youth page. The application **deadline is April 15, 2020**. Requirements are listed on the application. Contact the office with questions.

Prayers: We continue to pray for all members of the congregation and family members of the congregation with new and chronic health conditions, including George Campbell (Kelly Rehder's father); Tom Diercks (Danielle Ramthun's husband), Dean Kirkland, Marlene Roschen, Lloyd Roschen, Brian Deneen, Robert Reese, Karl Thomforde, Finley Budensiek and Billie Maher (sister of Barbie Collins and niece of Debbi St. John) & Billie's spouse Mark Beebe. If you would like someone to be added to the prayer list please contact the office.

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