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Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year A – Morning Prayer: Matins (ELW 4)  
March 29, 2020- 9:30 am

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Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

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.**

Opening

p. 298



O Lord, o - pen my lips,



and my mouth shall pro - claim your praise.



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Give glory to God, our light and our life.



Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

*Refrain*

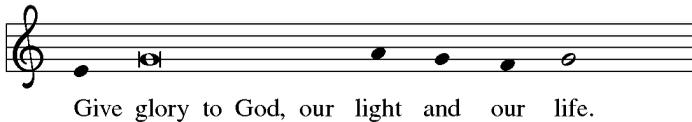
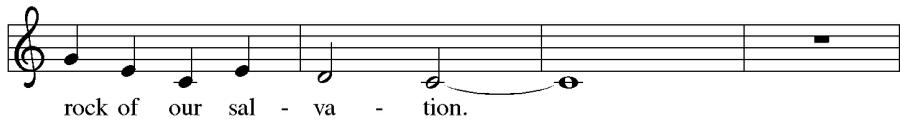
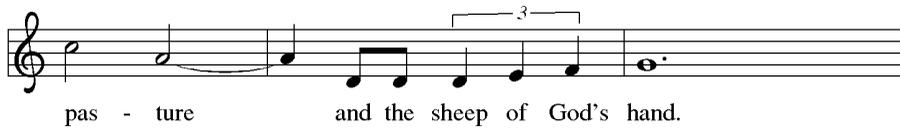
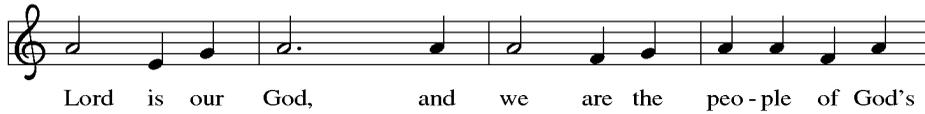
Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the  
 rock of our sal - va - tion. 1 Let us come be-fore God's  
 pres-ence with thanks-giv - ing and raise a loud shout to the  
 Lord with psalms. For you, Lord, are a great  
 God, and a great rul - er a - bove all gods.

*Refrain*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the  
 rock of our sal - va - tion. 2 In your hand are the  
 cav-erns of the earth; the heights of the hills are al - so  
 yours. The sea is yours, for you made it; and your  
 hands have mold-ed the dry land.

*Refrain*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the  
 rock of our sal - va - tion. 3 Come, let us wor-ship and bow  
 down; let us kneel be-fore the Lord our mak - er. For the



\_\_\_\_\_ The Word \_\_\_\_\_

## First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."*

<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.”

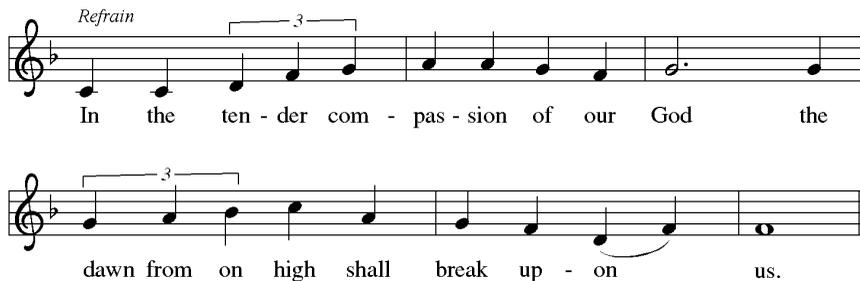
## **Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11**

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

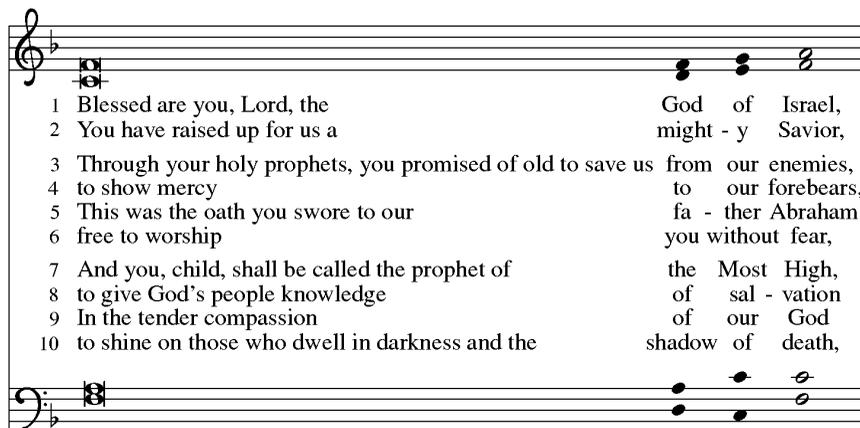
<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<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.

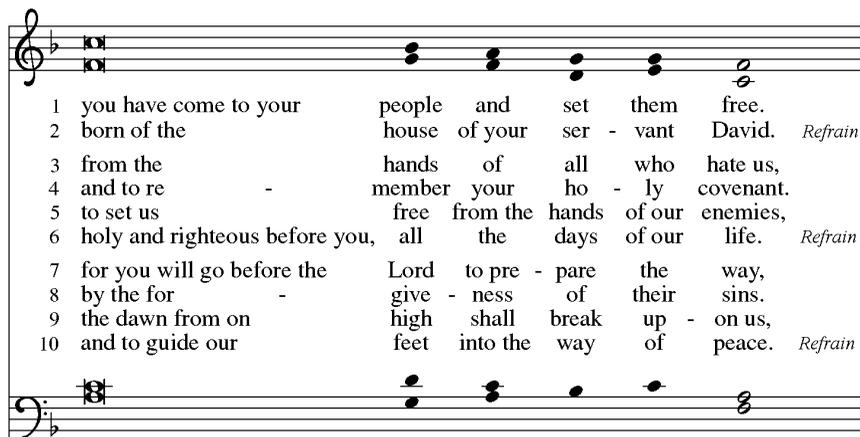
*Refrain*



In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God the  
dawn from on high shall break up - on us.



1 Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
2 You have raised up for us a might - y Savior,  
3 Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
4 to show mercy to our forebears,  
5 This was the oath you swore to our fa - ther Abraham:  
6 free to worship you without fear,  
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
8 to give God's people knowledge of sal - vation  
9 In the tender compassion of our God  
10 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,



1 you have come to your people and set them free.  
2 born of the house of your ser - vant David. *Refrain*  
3 from the hands of all who hate us,  
4 and to re - member your ho - ly covenant.  
5 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
6 holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. *Refrain*  
7 for you will go before the Lord to pre - pare the way,  
8 by the for - give - ness of their sins.  
9 the dawn from on high shall break up - on us,  
10 and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Refrain*

\*Gospel: John 11: 1-45  
Glory to You, O Lord

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

<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.

*This is the gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Sermon**

**Pr. Amy Truhe**

## **PRAYERS of INTERSESSION**

**P. 304**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. *A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.*

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you.

Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

**Amen.**

**Spiritual Communion** In a time when the elements have not been blessed and we are unable to be at a common table with one another, our forefathers in the Christian faith instituted what is known as “Spiritual Communion.” In this moment, we prepare ourselves as we would for the physical elements of communion, thinking about God’s gifts to us in the Body and Blood of Christ our Lord. Take a moment to pause, to remember your sin, to ask forgiveness. Christ has given his body “for you,” Christ

has “shed (His blood) for you for the forgiveness of sin.” Where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation. Recall God’s gifts to you in this moment. Let us pray:

**Jesus, I believe that you are present in sacrament of Holy Communion. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you through the elements of the sacrament, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you, knowing you are already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you as you offer forgiveness, unity, and hope to me and all believers. In your holy name I pray, Amen.**

### The Lord’s Prayer

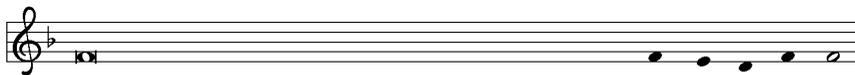
Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, the kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen



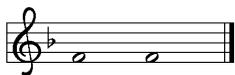
Let us bless the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.



A - men.

### Sending Hymn

### What Wondrous Love is This

ELW #666

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord...Thanks be to God!



**Amy Truhe, Pastor**

Office hours are 8 am – 10 am, Monday thru Friday

**Tyler Breneman, organist**

**Jeanne Lucas, youth director**

**Alisa Jones, office manager**

**Dr. Mark Lucas, choir director**

**Juan Redmon, custodian**

All services will be online only at either <https://www.facebook.com/melclindsborg/> or <http://www.melclindsborg.org/>. No in person services for this week, including Lent Service or next Sunday

**Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray**

**Members of Messiah:** Rolland Christenson, Har Shogren, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis. Family and friends of Carol Rasmussen

**Friends of Messiah**

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter
Suzi Gentine	Paul's sister-in-law	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Leon & Judy Burch	Friends of Warren O. & Ted K.	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Charlie Rethorst	Pastor's Friend	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's granddaughter
Matt Tobey	B. Holcombe	VanDeVyvere	
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Bruce Butler	Mary Jo Roch
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
		Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend

**Serving the U.S.A.**

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson	T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child

**Serving the U.S.A. Overseas**

Daniel & Miranda Norland Randy/Gretchen's son & wife

**Seminary**

Kaylie Ines

**As prayers are needed please contact Pastor Amy or the church so we can add. Please do not hesitate to let us know of those in need of prayer!**

**Wider Church News: BY JEANNE AHLERS**

As Robert Burns once put it, "The best laid plans o' mice and men gang aft agley." The coronavirus has upended everyone's life and immediate plans. There isn't any way to know when life will return to normal. And with church services suspended for the next several weeks, needless to say, the music program is at a standstill.

The Oratorio Society, to which a fair number of Messiah members belong, has postponed any presentation for the immediate future. The fact that gatherings have been restricted to ten or less has made that inevitable. There is a possibility that this year's performance might be given later in the year, perhaps at Midsummer's. Time will tell.

For the present, we'll have to bear with conditions as they are. "Even this will pass." The time will come when we'll be meeting again and "making a joyful noise unto the Lord."