

Welcome to House of Prayer Lutheran Church

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

Isaiah 56:7b



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.

++ Please be sure cell phones and pagers are turned off during the worship service as they can interfere with the sound system. Thank you. ++

To Our Visitors

Welcome to worship! Whether you are Lutheran or not, if you desire to receive the body and blood of Christ, you are welcome at the Lord's table. If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to worship again with us and join in our Christian fellowship, education and service activities. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Henry at the conclusion of the service, sign our guest sheet located in the foyer and join us in the Parish Hall for coffee & fellowship following worship. The Church is handicapped accessible and hearing assistance is available. Please see an usher for a receiver. A copy of today's sermon is available from the ushers.

Worship Assistants

Ushers

Acolyte

Communion Assistants

& Cross Bearer Martha Willson

Reader

Cantor

Coffee & Refreshments

Altar Guild Kristen Croke & Karin Sullivan

*The Sanctuary Candle burns to the Glory of God, given by Mabel Ericson
in memory of her father, Vincent Sherman.*

Worship Schedule

Saturday Worship Service 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:50 a.m. (September – June)

Holy Week Services Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7:15 p.m.

Easter Worship 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff

The Rev. Susan C. Henry, Pastor

Lenae W. Badger, Minister of Music

Kristen Croke, Church Administrator

Barbara Hutchinson, Associate Minister of Music

Church Directory

Church Offices are located in the church, 916 Main Street

Office hours are Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 9:00 am –1:00 pm. (office is closed on Tuesday)

Telephone (781)749-5533 - FAX (781)740-2649

Office email: hopchurchoffice@comcast.net

Pastor Henry's email: hoppastorhenry@gmail.com

Web Site: houseofprayerhingham.org

Newsletter submissions: hoptidingseditor@comcast.net



HOUSE OF PRAYER MISSION STATEMENT

To share and spread Christ's message of love

To nurture a vigorous and compassionate church family, open to all

To provide meaningful worship and Christian education

And to actively reach out to help and serve others

House of Prayer Lutheran Church

9:30 a.m. Setting 4

(* Indicates Congregation Standing)

Congregation parts are in bold

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

♪ *Your quiet reverence is appreciated as we use the prelude to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.* ♪

Prelude

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"

...Arr. Gadd

Welcome

* Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

* Gathering Song

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"

(763)

1. **My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.**

Refrain: **No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

2. **Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? Refrain**

3. **What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. Refrain**

4. **The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? Refrain**

* Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

* Kyrie (Sing alternating with the Cantor)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

* Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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: Spear

One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. John 19:34

"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" verse 1 and Lent 5

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**Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry,
still you rise with ev'ry morn, (repeat)**

**God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death,
hold us close through each tomorrow,
love as near as ev'ry breath (repeat)**



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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."

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."

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

²LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

**³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
LORD, who could stand?**

**⁴But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.**

**⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;**

**⁶my soul waits for the LORD
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!

**For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.**

**⁸It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.**

* Gospel Acclamation

**And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.**

(Refrain from "I Am the Bread of Life")

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.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter.

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.

[All children are invited to come to the front of the church as we sing the refrain to "Jesus Loves Me"]

Sermon

Pastor Henry

Silence for reflection

Hymn

"You Are the Way"

(758)

1. **You are the way; to you alone from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.**
2. **You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind and purify the heart.**
3. **You are the life; the rending tomb proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.**
4. **You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.**

* Apostles' Creed

(p. 105)

**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 into hell.
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.**

* The Prayers

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)

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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain. Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer. We pray especially for Vicki Haukom, Marilyn Pearson, and Wade Sayer. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of life, we give thanks for doctors, nurses and healthcare workers, as well as for all who work in hospitals preparing meals, cleaning, and providing other necessary services. We pray for their safety and well-being. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of life, keep us close to you and to one another during this time when we can't gather at church for worship. We hunger for your presence with us in bread and wine, your body and blood. For now, nourish us through your Word proclaimed and sung and prayed, and through your promise to be with us always. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again. Breathe new life into our dry bones that we, too, might live with you forever. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who serve our country near and far: for our President and Congress, for governors and local leaders, military personnel, leaders and diplomats, chaplains and caregivers. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have no one else to pray for them. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(Leader will complete the prayers)

For whom and for what else does this community pray?

(The congregation may offer, silently or aloud, any concerns they may have.)

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

* Sharing of the Peace

(p.152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(The congregation greets one another with a sign of God's peace.)

Share the peace but not germs. Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

THANKSGIVING

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory Anthems

"Lord, I Want to be a Christian"

...Spiritual (Arr. McGlohon)

"He Touched Me"

...Faither

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

* Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity,
water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile,
wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us:
renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love,
for the sake of a world in need.
Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

* 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.**

(p. 154)

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

* Blessing

* Hymn (705) “God of Grace and God of Glory” verses 1, 2, 4

1. **God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

2. **Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

4. **Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

* Dismissal Marked with the cross of Christ, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude ...Arr. Manz “God of Grace and God of Glory”



Next week's readings: See the announcement sheet

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Announcements & Events March 28 & 29

Sunday

This Week

We hope to begin live-streaming worship or finding other creative ways to worship in the weeks ahead that include Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

Please Note

- Wellspring is in need of donations. The list of food items for Easter Dinners for Wellspring's food pantry is on the website under the Ministries tab, go to Faith in Action and scroll down to find the list. Easter dinner items should be dropped off directly to Wellspring at 814 Nantasket Ave, Hull. Check their website at wellspringmultiservice.org or call them at 781-925-3211 x110 before dropping off donations since things are changing from day to day. Financial donations can be mailed to them as well. (Note if your donation is for the food pantry.)
- Thank you to Jen McCready for providing the church with a new microwave. And also for arranging the repair of the shelves in the kitchen cabinet.
- **SAVE THE DATE!! Sunday, May 17th**, House of Prayer will hopefully, be celebrating our 6th annual "God's Work. Our Hands" event. We will once again be partnering with Hingham Elder Services to do yard clean-ups and an exciting Care for Creation project.
- Remember to bring your recyclable items to our recycling dumpster. The gray multi-use dumpster accepts a variety of items, including textiles not suitable for donating, i.e. stained, ripped, etc. See the chart on the bulletin board in the hallway for a listing of acceptable items for the multi-use dumpster.
- Are you looking for the Word in Season devotional books? They can be found in the mailbox grid (far left side). If it is empty, contact Kristen in the office.

Other Announcements & Events

- Visit calumet.org for a full listing of spring events and to register for summer camp!
- The Cancer Support Community of the South Shore is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support, free of charge, to people affected by cancer, their families and their caregivers. Visit their website for a full listing of available programs and meetings at www.cancersupportcommunityma.org.

Next week's readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

Matthew 26:14-27:66

In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.