

Look for the

Liberator

5th Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023



Ascension Lutheran Church
1105 N. Washington Blvd.
Ogden, UT 84404
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Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community**, **communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know a nursery space is available for
parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

Please silence your cell phones at this time.

Introduction—Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places

The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can REALLY be found. And it is not in the "usual" places. Isn't it as true of us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don't we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary "good feelings" and satisfaction?

Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We'll move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the "real deal."

Call to Worship

(All) Hearts o - pen, minds a -
wake, change us now for heav - en's
sake; leave us not a - lone in ha - tred's wake. -
- Show us how - to love, show us how -
- to love, show us how, show us how -
- to love.

P Sometimes the things we think offer love actually seek to bind us – preventing us from having peace – from being whole and offering our best love to the world. This morning as we continue our journey through Lent, we hear another story from our scriptures – revealing more about true love.

As we hear the story of Lazarus, we discover his funeral shroud trails him out of the tomb. This image offers us a metaphor of new life as we recognize that true love is that which unbinds us – that wants for us more, not less, freedom and life. Hear Jesus say to you, “Come out! Walk! Live! Love! Shed your funeral clothes and offer your deepest self – your deepest love – for the world.” Of course, this kind of love can be dangerous as we will see as the events of Holy Week loom closer. But, the price of continuing to look for love in the wrong places is far higher than the blessing of life lived boldly in Christ’s love.

(All) Eyes o - pen, shocked a -
 wake, much to learn from our mis -
 takes; draw us clo - ser in our heart - ache.
 Show us how - to love, show us
 how - to love, show us how, show us
 how - - to love.

Confession and Assurance

P Let us join together in opening our hearts to the love of God. Before we even utter a word, we can be assured God will offer us grace and a way forward. For this reason, we can be honest with what pains us most about our own thoughts and actions. Let us pray:

Holy and Merciful One,

**we come bringing our deepest longings,
 and our failed attempts at satisfying them.**

We have often looked for love in things that cannot give us love.

**We yearn for lives that matter,
 we desire relationships that thrive,
 we want less regret.**

**We fail to see that you have already given us what really matters:
 your love and acceptance.**

P You provide opportunities all around us
to make a difference in the lives of others.
You give us a fresh start each day, inviting us to trust you.

In this silence, we confess we have looked for love in all the wrong places.
Today may we open ourselves to a change in our paths to seeing with
new eyes, to setting aside empty promises.

Silence for self reflection.

My friends, be assured by the Psalmist who says,
“If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness...”

Let us respond together:

***All* We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision
to the ways of love created by God,
embodied in Jesus,
and already moving in us by the Spirit.
We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Amen!**

We Proclaim

A reading of Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²O LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

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

⁴Yet with you is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

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

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

⁸For the LORD shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.

Psalm 130

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as you are able.

O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord,
o - pen the eyes of my heart; I want to see You,
I want to see You. O - pen the eyes of my heart,
Lord, o - pen the eyes of my heart; I want to
see You, I want to see You.

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

All 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.

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. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ 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.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha 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.” 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.

John 11:1-45

P The Word of God that is still speaking,

All Praise to you, O Christ.

[You may be Seated](#)

Hymn of the Day

Please stand as you are able.

We Shall Rise Again



1. Come to me, all you wea - ry,
 2. Though we walk through the dark - ness,
 4. Do not fear death's do - min - ion,



with your bur - dens and pain.
 e - vil we do not fear.
 look be - yond earth and grave.



Take my yoke on your shoul - ders and
 You are walk - ing be - side us with your
 See the bright - ness of Je - sus shin - ing



learn from me:
 rod and your staff.
 out to light our way.



I am gen - tle and hum - ble,
 On - ly good - ness and kind - ness
 Lov - ing Fa - ther and Spir - it,



and your soul will find rest,
 fol - low us all our lives.
 lov - ing Je - sus the Son,



For my yoke is eas - y and my
 We shall dwell in the Lord's house for so
 All God's peo - ple to - geth - er, we shall



bur - den is light.
 man - y years to come!
 live on as one! We shall



rise a - gain on the last day with the faith - ful, rich and



poor. Com - ing to the house of Lord Je - sus, we will



find an o - pen door there, we will find an o - pen



door.

Text: Matthew 11:29-30, Psalm 23, John 11, 2 Timothy 2; Jeremy Young, b.1948
 Tune: RESURRECTION; Irregular with refrain; Jeremy Young, b.1948
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Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' 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.**

[You may be Seated](#)

Prayers of the People

L Let us pray, singing “God have mercy” in Greek, “Kyrie Eleison:”

♪ ♪ **Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison** ♪ ♪
Kyrie Eleison, I pray.

Prayers for the World

...God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this world to you with our love:

Prayers for Our Community

...God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this community to you with our love:

Prayers for Our Relationships

...God have mercy. In this singing we lift up each other to you with our love:

Prayers for Our Selves

...God have mercy. In this singing we open ourselves to your love:

Sharing the Peace

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.

P Christ become Love and Peace with you.

All **And also with you.**

Offering

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.



I cast all my cares up - on You. I
lay all of my bur - dens down at Your feet. And
an - y - time that I don't know what to do, I will
cast all my cares up - on You.

Offertory Prayer

P God of good gifts,

All Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love.

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.

Holy Communion

P May Love be with you!

***All* And also with you!**

P Lift up your hearts!

***All* We lift them up to the Lord!**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

***All* It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

P What love you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ!

Your Spirit poured out through him,

as he brought good news, proclaimed freedom, healed, and fed.

His life of love shows us the way.

His life of love delivers us from false hopes.

His life, death, and resurrection offered ultimate and enduring love.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread
and gave thanks;

broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

P And so, in remembrance of this love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our love completely as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

P Now gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

All *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.*

The Invitation

P Christ has prepared the feast.
Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

Communion Songs

You may be Seated

I Am the Bread of Life

All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of God, who have

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Refrain
 All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All Amen.

P Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

All 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.

Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand as you are able.

P May the weary weight you have carried here
surrender to the power of connection and communion.
May the fullness of your actual self find warmth and recognition
in the presence of Jesus, the risen One.
May the healing presence of God flow through you,
soothing the cracks of your soul, ✚ anointing your whole life.

All Amen.



- Show us how - to love, show us how -



- to love, show us how, show us how -



- to love.

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

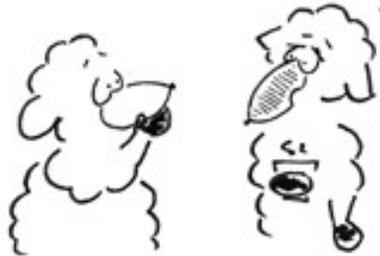
All Thanks be to God.

JESUS' ENEMIES
DECIDE TO KILL HIM
BECAUSE HE
RAISES LAZARUS?

YES.)



IT'S LIKE THE **LAST
STRAW** FOR THEM. A FEW
VERSES LATER THEY'VE
DECIDED HE HAS TO DIE.)



GIVEN HOW THINGS
WORKED FOR LAZARUS,
THEY THOUGHT JESUS
WOULD **STAY DEAD?**



JOHN 11:1-45

© WETZSTEIN³ 17.03.29

Readings for next Sunday,
April 2nd
Palm Sunday

First Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm:

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel:

Matthew 26:14--27:66

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