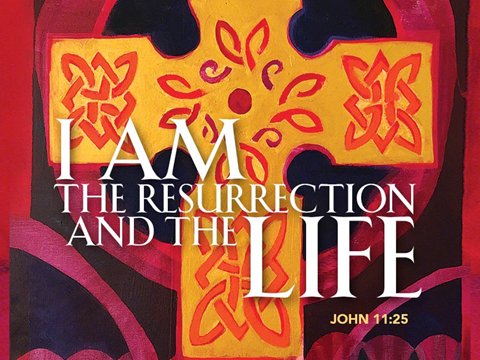
**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29, 2020**



***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*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. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God’s unfailing promise in our baptism.*

**Gathering**

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

**Entrance Rite** ELW #334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

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In these days, Holy God, we can relate to the struggle of being disconnected. We feel the dry emptiness that comes from being separate from our communities, family, friends, work. We long for your presence to bring us a sense of hope and renewal. Breathe on us, restore us to life and hope, help us know that we are bound together in you.

*Lent 5*

**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.**

Lord Jesus, it can feel harder to hear your voice when we are so isolated. There are other worries and fears that are calling to us, and those voices sound so loud sometimes it’s hard to hear anything else. But your voice, your call, *does* reach us no matter where we are, in life or in death. Give us the courage to hear and answer you, to trust your promise, to live your grace, to proclaim your goodness wherever we are.

*Stanza 3*

**Christ, you lead and we shall follow,**

**stumbling though our steps may be;**

**one with you in joy and sorrow,**

**we the river, you the sea,**

**we the river, you the sea.**

**Greeting**

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

**Prayer of the 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.**

#### Word

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

**First Lesson** 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, “Prophesy 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, “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.” 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 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. 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.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Lesson** 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.*

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.**

The holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel** John 11:1-45

*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. 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.**

**Sermon** (Available at www.GraceGlenEllyn.org) The Rev. Melody Eastman

**Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore communities devastated by this pandemic. Guard all of those who work to supply food, medicine and other necessities. Bless and protect medical staff, and those who care for the vulnerable. Help us work together to bring an end to this pandemic and bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain. Comfort and strengthen those who are ill, especially Nancy, Norma, Sigrid,

Dorothy, Rich, Farrel, Anita, Bob, Evelyn, Patricia, Carol, and those we name before you now….

Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless the joy of Jim and Helen Sladek as they celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary. May their faithfulness and love continue to witness to your goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Blessing**

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ☩ bless us, unbind us, and send us in love and in peace. **Amen.**

**Hymn** ELW #733Great is Thy Faithfulness

(Piano accompaniment that you can sing along with is available at [**https://www.graceglenellyn.org/music-downloads.html**](https://www.graceglenellyn.org/music-downloads.html)**)**

1. **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father;**

**There is no shadow of turning with thee.**

**Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;**

**As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

***Refrain:*** **Great is thy faithfulness!**

**Great is thy faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning, new mercies I see.**

**All I have needed thy hand hath provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.**

2. **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,**

**Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above**

**Join with all nature in manifold witness**

**To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

***Refrain***

3. **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,**

**Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;**

**Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,**

**Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!**

***Refrain***

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**Current Prayer Requests**

*Please keep these people in your prayers and reach out to our sisters and brothers in Christian love. Names will be left on the list for two weeks, unless you indicate that they should remain in our prayers for a longer period.*

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Family of Rita Webster Cousin of Vince Hardt Comfort in Grief

Family of Russell Lantz Grandfather of Bruce Lantz Comfort in Grief

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

Nancy Lantz Member Healing & Strength

Jim & Helen Sladek Members 62nd Anniversary 3/22

Norma Petersen Member Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Friend of Grace Healing & Strength

David Dean Son of Lenore Dean Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracey Member Healing & Strength

Rich Davison Member Healing & Strength

Mark Frerichs and Family Friend of Sue Pagnoni Safety & Strength

Susan Papierski Food Pantry Director Healing & Strength

Benjamin Cuatzo Friend of the Derricos Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Farrel Benefield, Anita Blakemore, Bob Clauss, Evelyn Elson, Patricia Moore,

Carol Petersen

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**Grace’s website** is being updated almost daily with new resources, including instrumental and sing-along music from Bradford; coloring pages for relaxing, meditation and prayer; coloring pages for little ones; links to videos and articles to help you manage stress and anxiety; and, of course, Wednesday and Sunday sermons from Pastor Melody. And more resources are in the planning, so check back often! **Resources are available online at** [**www.GraceGlenEllyn.org**](http://www.GraceGlenEllyn.org)

**Easter Flower** orders are suspended, but may resume when we find out when we can start worshipping again.

**Easter Service:** If we miss Easter (as it seems likely we will), we will celebrate Easter on our first Sunday back together, no matter when that is! In the meantime, after Palm/Passion Sunday (when we’ve “run out” of Lent) Pastor Melody will choose texts and prepare a sermon for each Sunday. After our Easter celebration we will pick up with the liturgical calendar at the current date.

The **Progressive Dinner** scheduled for April 25 has been **cancelled** even if we’re meeting in worship again

**One for the Foxes:** Concert on April 15 has been **cancelled**. We hope to reschedule later in the year.

**CROP Walk Update:** This mission has not changed due to COVID-19 and, in fact, the need for local and global food supply is even more imperative - so let's stay focused and do everything we can to raise funds to fight hunger!!  
  
The event on May 3 will adapt to the limitations in place at that time - while we cannot predict exactly - we have decided the following:  
  
**1)** **LET'S WALK** on May 3 at 1pm separately but together in our cause!!  
You can walk anywhere and any distance - but let's all walk at 1pm.  
You can walk 3 miles in a park or 1 mile in your neighborhood or 3 feet in your living room!!  
**ACTION:** Sign-up on this web-site so we can see everyone who will be walking!! Or contact me, Mike Pertle, and I can sign you up!!  
Even family and friends in other cities and states can participate!!  
There will be no gathering or check-in - just walking!  
  
**2)** **DONATE** - Please continue to encourage people to donate to this cause. This web page enables on-line contributions and we welcome donations now through May!!  
**ACTION:** Send this link to family and friends anywhere in the U.S. who want to help support our local and global food supplies!!  
If you sign up to walk - they can donate directly to you - or to Gary Church as a whole. Any amount is appreciated!!  
  
To donate, sign up to walk, or both – website is available now!!

[**crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2020**](http://crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2020)  
  
What's important is that we remain purposeful to this cause and stay in community even if we are not physically together! Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3 to participate any way you can!

**Community Vacation Bible School: June 22 - 26:** We are excited to announce that Grace will continue our VBS partnership with First Congregational Church and Faith Lutheran Church. This year **Community VBS** will take place at First Congregational Church, just one block north of Grace on Forest Avenue. Registration can be found at the following link (also on Grace’s Webpage):

**https://forms.gle/8SRv38WhYLVWMZ2K7**

**Middle School and High School** students serve as wonderful leaders and assistants for this event. If your student would like to serve the community in this way, please reach out to Becky Ficarella. **Adults!!!** We need as much help as we can get with this event! Whether it’s prepping in the weeks ahead, serving during that week, or being a set up/clean up helper, we would greatly appreciate your love and commitment to this wonderful week.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

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