

FIFTH
Sunday
IN
LENT

March 25, 26, and 27, 2023



**Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;**

Psalm 138:7

Worship Information

Welcome to worship at Living Hope Lutheran Church.

If your child becomes restless while sitting with you during the service, we have a room to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Ask an usher if you need assistance.



WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

TODAY'S WORSHIP FOCUS

The author and poet George Eliot once wrote, "Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them." The Roman philosopher Cicero said much the same. He wrote, "The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living." What second rate comfort! But that is the best the unbelieving world can offer—the sappy sentiment that our dead loved ones somehow "live on" in our memories. It is a sad way to attempt to cope as you walk through the cemetery. Jesus provides a better solution to death. He promises life. One day Jesus will give your faithful dead back to you—to love and to laugh and to hug and to dance. Body and soul, living and walking in the new heaven and the new earth.

OPENING HYMN

921 | *Come, Thou Almighty King*

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The words of the invocation are the words used in Baptism. They intentionally remind us that our relationship with God is secure because of his grace.



Jesus authorized us to speak these words of forgiveness on his behalf. Hear them as Jesus speaking to you!



Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression “Lord, have mercy” is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.



Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. “Glory to God in the Highest” has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

LORD, HAVE MERCY –Kyrie

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

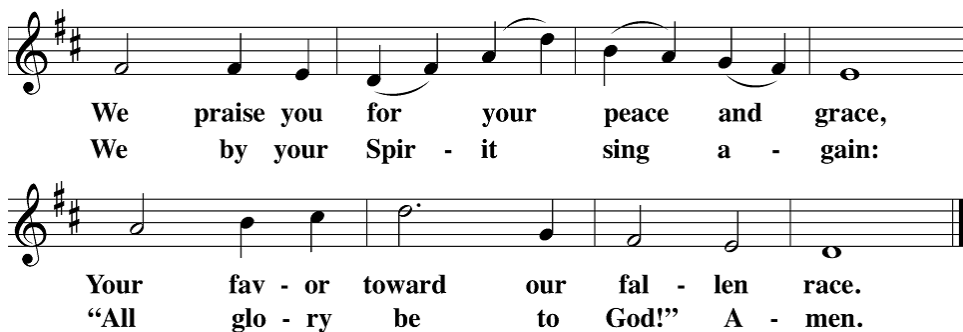
M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD

All glo - ry be to God on high!
You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;

Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED





God wants us to know that whoever believes in him will live, even though he dies. He enables the prophet Elisha to prove that to a grieving mother.

FIRST LESSON

2 Kings 4:17-37

The woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. He said to his father, "My head! My head!"

His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.

She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return."

"Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath."

"That's all right," she said.

She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite! Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'"

"Everything is all right," she said.

When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why."

"Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes'?"

Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don't greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."

But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.

Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened."

When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm. Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son."

She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

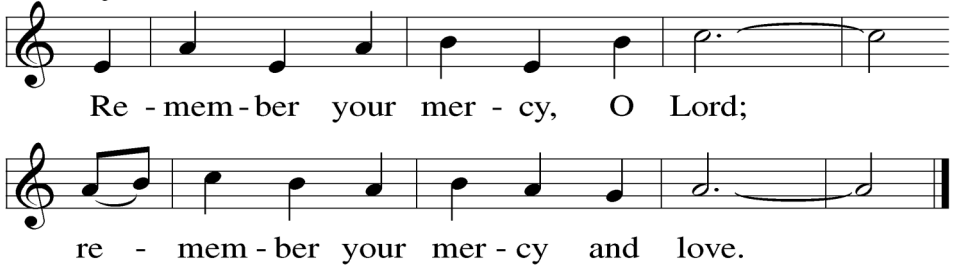




Psalm 130 is one of the Penitential Psalms that reflects on repentance and forgiveness of sins through faith in the Savior.

PSALM 130

Refrain



Psalm tone



Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;*
O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive;*
to my cry for mercy.

If you, O Lord kept a record of sins,*
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,*
therefore, you are feared.

Refrain

I wait for the Lord and in his Word I put my hope.*
My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,*
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:11-19

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

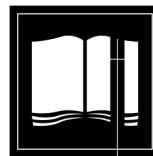
Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



The Father promises to raise his children from the dead and make them heirs of everlasting glory. This glorious promise gives the believer encouragement to live as God’s child, even when facing troubles.

VERSE OF THE DAY

C: *(sing)* **God, your Word is unto me
like a fire that I may see,
like a lamp my feet to lead,
like a light my path to speed.**

(Tune: Holy Spirit, Light Divine)

PLEASE STAND



*A corpse
responds to the
empowering
command of
Christ. This
greatest miracle
of his ministry
proves that Jesus
is the Lord of life.*

GOSPEL LESSON

John 11:17-27, 38-45

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said.



"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

464 | *I Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again*

SERMON

2 Kings 4:17-37

God Gives Life to Our Mortal Bodies



*Public confession
is faith's
response to
God's saving
Word. Christians
composed the
Nicene Creed in
the fourth
century to
defend the
Bible's teachings
that both Jesus
Christ and the
Holy Spirit are
true God, equal
to the Father in
one eternal,
undivided
Trinity .*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Spoken by the Minister.

PLEASE STAND

THE SACRAMENT

THE PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



This section of the liturgy is one of the most ancient parts of the liturgy of the Christian Church.

The second response is called the "Sursum Corda" ("Lift up your hearts" in Latin). It comes from Lamentations 3:41 and Psalm 86:4. The final response is one of thanksgiving.



In Isaiah 6 we read that angelic choirs sing “Holy, Holy, Holy” to God in heaven. They do this to worship the perfect and holy God. While we do not see him with our eyes, in the Lord’s Supper, God is present as we receive Jesus’ body and blood. It is most fitting for us to praise the God who has saved us, using the heavenly song.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of
 2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly

pow’r and might, Your glo - ry earth and heav - en In
 blest is he Who in God’s name is com - ing To

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
 set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And in your
 va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De - liv - er

grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
 us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil’s power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
 By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
 By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
 By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

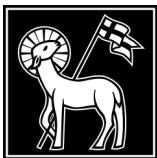
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.



This ancient song text is based on John the Baptist's proclamation that Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). The simple words remind us of the heavenly blessing we receive in the Lord's Supper.

LAMB OF GOD - *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

PLEASE BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is an expression of spiritual unity. Therefore, we practice "close communion" at Living Hope. If you are a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to take the Lord's Supper with us; if you are not, please speak to one of our pastors after the service so that he can explain our practice in more detail.

On pages 295-296 in the hymnal you will find "Christian Questions" to help you prepare for the Lord's Supper.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

588 | *Come, O Come, Life-Giving Spirit*

PLEASE STAND

COMMUNION BLESSING

Spoken by the Minister

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



These are the words of the blessing that the Lord commanded his Old Testament priests to use in Numbers 6.

BENEDICTION

M: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

518 vs. 1, 3 | *Christ, Be My Leader*





Please place your offering in the box in the back of church.

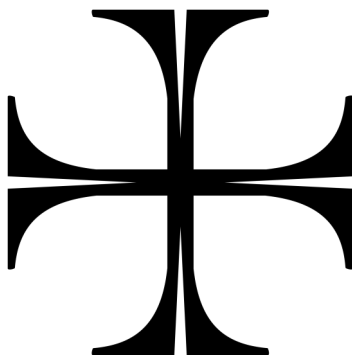
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING THIS WEEKEND

Preacher	Pastor Thomas Kneser
Worship Accompanist	Debra Aufdemberge (Sat) Nancy Perez (Sun)
Saturday Ushers	Del Schroeder, Susan Plopper, Jim Plopper, Rodger White, Mike Podemski
8:00am Ushers	Joe Lucchesi, Jaccob Diaz Griffin, Corey Tulledge, Bill Hansen
10:30am Ushers	Andy Hein, Fred Klinger, David Hofer



LIVING HOPE

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