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Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 29, 2020

SERVICE OF THE WORD *(page 38 in hymnal)*

This brief service will be live streamed from MLHS at 9:00am on Sunday, March 29th

You can view it on our Grace website—gracelutheran-church.com.

Click "[Virtual Worship](#)" link at bottom.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: *Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.*

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: *Amen.*

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE - ALL sing

Oh taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your word, O Lord is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

Prayer of the Day:

M: 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 forgiveness of sins and 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. ***Amen.***

GOD'S WORD

You are invited to read each lesson and answer the questions that follow each reading.

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14

- 1) How does the vision of the dry bones characterize God's people at Ezekiel's time?
- 2) What tool was used to restore life to the dead bones? What is God's encouragement?
- 3) Recall a time when God's life-giving promises encouraged and carried you. Tell someone about this.

PSALM 116 (page 107 in hymnal) - we sing the refrain together and speak the verses responsively

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:11-19

- 1) Through his Spirit which gives us faith in Christ, God has breathed new life into our mortal bodies. According to these verses, what changes does the Spirit bring about?

- 2) How does a Christian “put to death the misdeeds of the body”?

- 3) Picture a balance scale. On one side list as many “present sufferings” as you can. Then describe how the glory that will be revealed in us will truly tip the scale the other way.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 11:17-27, 38-45

- 1) Find Martha’s confession of faith. How do her words sound familiar? When have you said them?

- 2) Find the shortest verse in the Bible in this 11th chapter of John (Hint: It is just before the second half of this reading.) What does this verse say to you about Jesus?

- 3) Read Jesus’ prayer in verses 41-42. What benefit did Jesus want for the people standing there with him? How does Jesus’ prayer direct your prayers if someone you know gets COVID19?

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, merciful Father. You are our ever-present help in time of trouble. Once again we realize that your thoughts are not our thoughts, your ways are not our ways. In your wisdom you have permitted a virus pandemic to sweep into our nation and cause loss and pain and fear. Do not let our hearts despair. Instead sustain us and comfort us by your eternal love and eternal plan for us, which you promise, is best for us and will prevail. We ask for your mercy. Heal the sick, console the bereaved. Protect the helpless and deliver all who are in danger. Please bless all that govern and bless and protect those who serve in the care of the sick, and grant our country’s people repentance and faith so that your kingdom may grow, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

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. **Amen.**

HYMN #728: “Jerusalem the Golden” (Christian Worship Supplement)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let’s thankfully bring offerings that show our trust in the Lord’s promises to provide for us. Your offering envelopes have our Grace Church mailing address printed on them for your convenience.

Let’s give caring phone calls to our Grace members.

Do you know anyone in need? Groceries? Errands? Call or email the office. We’ll see what we can do.

We will be live streaming our next Wednesday Lent Service at 6:30pm on April 1. You can view this online by going to our website: gracelutheran-church.com and clicking on the “Virtual Worship” link at the bottom.