

# Service of Word and Prayer

Corona Virus Pandemic

Lent 5 A, March 29, 2020

Video recording at Friedens Lutheran Church, Hegins, PA

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings from Pastor Laura Csellak, Pastor of Christ's United Lutheran Church in Ashland, PA, and Pastor Mark Swanson, Pastor of Friedens Lutheran Church in Hegins and St. James Lutheran Church in Pitman. We welcome all who are viewing this service, friends both near and far, who desire to hear God's Word, but are unable to attend worship at this time.

We thank our technicians—Gary Klinger, Eljon Alonge, and Steven Wolfgang—for sharing their skills in recording and posting this service.

We pray for our respective faith communities and all those in our nation and around the world affected by the spread of the Coronavirus, especially those most vulnerable.

- If you have any pastoral care needs, do not hesitate to call Pastor Mark or me at the Lutheran parsonage at **570-652-1951**. And please visit our websites for more information in the days ahead.
- *Remember, that the work of the Church continues even now. We urge you to continue your financial giving to the life of your congregation.*

United in the name of our Lord, working together as one people of God, we are confident that Christ, our Savior, will lead us, as always, into a new day.

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## GATHERING HYMN “*Christ, the Life of All the Living*”

### INTRODUCTION

Today we use the scripture texts for Sunday, March 29, the Fifth Sunday in Lent.

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. To those living in the shadows of death, this story proclaims God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. As Easter people we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

### 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.**

Be pleased, O God, to deliver us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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

### **STORY OF “OUT OF THE DEPTHS I CRY TO YOU”**

The appointed Psalm for this Sunday, Lent 5, is Psalm 130. Psalms are hymns, intended to be sung, usually in a chant form. However, many Psalms have also been set to a metrical hymn form, as was often the case in the time of Martin Luther in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The text of Martin Luther’s version of Psalm 130, “Out of the Depths I Cry to You”, is printed below.

Written in 1523, Luther took special pains with his version. It was sung on May 9, 1525, at the funeral of Friedrich the Wise, Luther’s Prince, in the Castle Church at Wittenberg. In 1530, during the Diet of Augsburg, Luther’s heart was often sorely troubled, but he would say, ‘Come, let us defy the devil and praise God by singing a hymn.’ Then he would begin, ‘Out of the depths I cry to You.

After Luther’s death on February 18, 1546, the people of the city of Halle, Germany sang this hymn with tears in their eyes as the great Reformer’s coffin passed through their city on the way to the grave at Wittenberg.

The text of the hymn focuses on the sorrow we feel for our sins, and our hope in the forgiveness of Christ. It begins in the depths of despair that Luther himself felt as he was in agony over his sinfulness. The hymn continues by emphasizing that we can do nothing to earn God’s forgiveness, but God’s mercy towards us is a gift. The hymn concludes by expressing trust that the grace of God is greater than our sins, and that God will redeem us in the end; words of comforting hope in Luther’s time and in our own.

### **HYMN “*Out of the Depths I Cry to You*”**

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you;  
O Lord God, hear me calling.  
Incline your ear to my distress  
in spite of my rebelling.  
Do not regard my sinful deeds.  
Send me the grace my spirit needs;  
without it I am nothing.
- 2 All things you send are full of grace;  
you crown our lives with favor.  
All our good works are done in vain  
without our Lord and Savior.  
We praise you for the gift of faith;  
you save us from the grip of death;  
our lives are in your keeping.
- 3 In you alone, O God, we hope,  
and not in our own merit.  
We rest our fears in your good Word  
and trust your Holy Spirit.  
Your promise keeps us strong and sure;  
we trust the cross, your signature,

- inscribed upon our temples.
- 4 My soul is waiting for you, Lord,  
as one who longs for morning;  
no watcher waits with greater hope  
than I for your returning.  
I hope as Israel in the Lord,  
who sends redemption through the Word.  
Praise God for grace and mercy!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. composite  
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### **PSALM 130**

- <sup>1</sup>Out of the depths  
I cry to you, O LORD;  
<sup>2</sup>O LORD, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.  
<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch over sins,  
O LORD, who could stand?  
<sup>4</sup>Yet with you is forgiveness,  
in order that you may be feared.  
<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;  
in your word is my hope.  
<sup>6</sup>My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch for the morning.  
<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;  
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.  
<sup>8</sup>For the LORD shall redeem Israel  
from all their sins.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**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.*

- <sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.  
<sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."  
<sup>4</sup>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." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

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

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup>She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup>When 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.” <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The 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. <sup>32</sup>When 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.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus 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.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I 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.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The 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.”

<sup>45</sup>Many 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**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

### **CONFESSION**

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace. You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you.

**Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins. On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were bruised for our iniquities.

**Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation:

**Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you, and joy of all the saints:

**Save us, Lord.**

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
**grant us peace.**

## **PEACE**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Brief pause to share peace by bowing.*

## **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 those who work for its renewal. Accomplish your 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 lands and seas polluted by our hands. Heal the world ravaged by flood, drought and disasters 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 affected by war, immigrants seeking a place of refuge, 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, pain or illness of any kind (*especially those we now remember in our hearts*). Fill us with compassion and empathy for all who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for the Church to work with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. Unite us in common purpose to love and serve your people in this difficult time and in the days ahead. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you are the resurrection and the life. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again (*especially those most dear to us*). Breathe new life into us, 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.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God,  
Father, ✠ Son,  
and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SENDING SONG** *"Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land"*