

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

March 26, 2023: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson

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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* (ELW 337)

GREETING (WOV p. 46)

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.

The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart.

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

**and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.**

Faith comes from what is heard,

and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

SCRIPTURE SONG (WOV p. 47)

Salvation belongs to our God and to

Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

*Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe;
just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.*

Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

*All: Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever
and ever.*

For you alone are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and worship before you,

*for your just and holy works have been revealed.
All: Salvation belongs to our God and to
Christ the Lamb forever and ever.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

FIRST READING: 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."

A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 37:

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, "Prophecy 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, "Prophecy 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.”
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O 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?

⁴**Yet 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.

⁶**My 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.

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

SECOND READING: 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.

A reading from Romans, chapter 8:

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 48)

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

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.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

HYMN *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (ELW 324)

CREED AND CONFESSIOIN (WOV p. 49)

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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in
newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you,

forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (WOV p. 50)

Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours the hosannas, the dying, rebirth.

Ours the rejoicing for nature reclaimed;

ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.

Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;

yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, **in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the**

**Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all of creation.

...Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love
and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus
Christ our Savior.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p. 52)

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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Glory Be to Jesus

*[1] Glory be to Jesus, who, in bitter pains,
Poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins.*

*[2] Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.*

*[3] Blest through endless ages be the precious stream,
Which from endless torment did the world redeem.*

[4] Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies;

But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

*[5] Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.*

*[6] Lift we then our voices, swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder praise the precious blood.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the life.

Thanks be to God.

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WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE VISITING:



If you're visiting, please sign our guestbook in the narthex.
Worship times rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.

APRIL WORSHIP TIMES



WEST 9:00 am Worship / Coffee after church 10:00 am

BOTH 10:00 am West JAM / East Sunday school

EAST 11:00 am Worship / East coffee always after church

All Confirmation students should attend all Holy Week services:

PALM SUNDAY is April 2: 9:00am service at WEST, 11:00am EAST

MAUNDY THURSDAY is April 6: 7:00 pm BOTH at WEST/Comm

GOOD FRIDAY is April 7: 7:00 pm BOTH at EAST

EASTER DAY is April 9: WEST at 8:30 am, EAST at 10:00 am with

Communion at both

Final April communion will be April 23 at BOTH churches

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

Note: Anyone interested may join Altar Guild

Altar Guild: Mar. - Gena Cahill

Deacon: Mar. - Lori Peterson

Reader/Helpers: Mar. 26 - Gena Cahill

East Acolytes: If not listed, ushers are covering

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE MAKE CHANGE ON CALENDAR PAGE - the next NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY will be on **Thurs., Mar. 30th** (NOT on the 28th, as shown on the newsletter calendar).

Direct Your Thrivent "Choice Dollars" by March 31



Thrivent Choice Dollars from 2022 can still be directed until March 31, by calling **800-847-4836**. When prompted, say "Thrivent Choice". Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

EAST EASTER EGG HUNT PALM SUNDAY!

Easter
Egg Hunt!

East kid's join us Palm Sunday for an Easter Egg Hunt - this event at 10:00 am sharp. *Bring your Easter basket or a bag.*

Lilies to Beautify Our Altar ~ Easter Will be Here Soon!



If anyone wishes to donate/share their Easter lily/lilies at church "*in-memory of*" and/or "*in-honor of*" someone... please inform Gina Moser, (or at West: Sheryl Wohlers) by Tues., APRIL 4, if you would like them listed in the Easter bulletin. *You may need to buy or order lilies soon - as some greenhouses are getting fewer of them. Please drop-off lilies at your church the day before Easter.*

Lutheran Disaster Response to Earthquake: Turkey/Syria

At West council meeting it was decided that the Lenten supper at West on March 29, the free-will offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response for "Earthquake in Turkey/ Syria".

CALLING ALL EAST/WEST KIDS!!! This year's VBS Campout for Christ will be Saturday and Sunday, August 19-20, at West.

The time is to be determined. [*Children PRE-K to 2nd grade are welcome to join-in on the sleepover if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.*] **Early registration will help us to plan - to register please contact** the Board of Education at WestStOlafJAM@gmail.com, or call or text 507-206-9839. More updates to follow!

ALSO...LARGE BOXES NEEDED FOR VBS: We have a request for all of you... For VBS, we would like to build box forts for the sleepover. If you have any let us know and we will get them from you or you can bring them to Sunday School! If you have any questions feel free to reach out to West Board of Ed, contact info listed above. Thank you for thinking of us! *Many Blessings, West Board of Education*

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|--|
| TODAY 03/26 | 9:00 am | East worship |
| | 10:00 am | W. JAM/E. Sun. school |
| | 11:00 am | West worship / communion |
| Monday: | 9am-Noon | Pastor at office |
| Tuesday: | 10:00 am | East quilting/sack lunch |
| Wednesday: | 6:00 pm | <u>BOTH Soup Supper at WEST</u> <i>W. WELCA serves supper and Freewill offering goes for the Earthquake in Turkey/Syria</i> |
| | 7:00 pm | <u>BOTH Lenten Service at WEST</u> |
| Thursday: | 9am-Noon | Pastor at office |
| | _____ | <u>NEWSLETTER DAY at office</u> <i>(9:10-print, 9:20-fold, 9:40-collate)</i> |
| Friday: | _____ | Pastor's day off-work |
| Sun. 04/02 | | <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> |
| | 9:00 am | West Worship/ <u>communion</u> |
| | 10:00 am | West JAM Easter Egg Hunt, put on by West Luther League!! West coffee |
| | 10:00 am | <u>East Sun. School Easter Egg hunt!!</u> |
| | 11:00 am | East worship/ <u>communion</u> , with coffee always after church |

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|---|
| Apr. 3 (Mon.) | 9am-noon | Pastor at office |
| Apr. 4 (Tue.) | 10:00 am | East quilting/sack lunch |
| | NOON | <u>Deadline to inform Gina about any donated Easter lilies.</u> |
| | 6:00 pm | <u>East council meeting</u> |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Apr. 6 (Thur.) | 9am-Noon 7:00 pm | Pastor at office MAUNDY THURSDAY service at West / <u>communion</u> |
| Apr. 7 (Fri.) | _____ 7:00 pm | Pastor's day off-work GOOD FRIDAY service at EAST |
| Apr. 9 (Sun.) | 8:30 am 10:00 am | EASTER DAY! He is risen!! West worship/ <u>communion</u> <u>(No coffee hour at West on Easter)</u> East worship/ <u>communion</u> |

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

East Prayers: Verla Holman (*friend of Marylin Carlson*), Orillie Iverson, Dawn Hugelback, Debra Moekel (*daughter of Audrey Carlson*), Keith Roeder (*Paul Jordan was his father-in-law*), Dalton Mansfield (*currently serving aboard ship*), John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Bill Fritts, Sylvia Torstenson, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), David Distad, and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR Paul Thompson: (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

Cell Phone: 507-273-8504 **Email:** pthomp821@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday and Thursday

9:00 am–Noon... OR by appointment (*Day off-work is Friday*)

SECRETARY Gina Moser: (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

Office Phone: 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 507-951-4964

Emails: eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

OUR WEBSITES: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

OUR JANITORIAL SERVICE: Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Bruce Peterson – Cell: 507-254-1822

Gary Kearns - Home: 206-3158, Cell: 254-5285

Bryan DeCook - Cell: 208-1590

EAST: VISITS FOR OUR MEMBERS

If you know of anyone who may like a call or visit from Pastor Paul or from another member, please contact an East deacon:
Jane Williams: 507-271-2272 or Pat Cahill: 507-365-8766.