



St. George Lutheran Church

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March 26, 2023 11:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

**Welcome! We are glad you're here! A warm welcome is extended to all!
Your presence enriches us at this time of celebration together.**

Prelude

Adagio; Passacaglia (Secret Garden)

Gail Boyd & Mary Katharine Morgan

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing the Peace

Centering Prayer

"The world is charged with the grandeur of God." (Gerard Manley Hopkins)

I dwell for a moment on the Presence of God around me,

in every part of my body,

and deep within my being.

(Silent prayer)

Youth Message

Opening Song:

This is Amazing Grace

Who breaks the power of sin and
darkness. Whose love is mighty and so
much stronger. The King of Glory the
King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy
thunder. And leaves us breathless in awe
and wonder. The King of Glory the King
above all kings

Chorus: This is amazing grace

This is unfailing love

That You would take my place

That You would bear my cross

You laid down Your life

That I would be set free. Oh Jesus I sing

for all that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and
daughter. The King of Glory the King of
Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and
justice. Shines like the sun in all of its

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brilliance. The King of Glory the King
above all kings *Chorus*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the
grave (repeat)

Worthy worthy worthy *Chorus*

Desert Song

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain There is a
faith proved of more worth than gold So
refine me Lord through the flame

Chorus: I will bring praise I will bring
praise No weapon formed against me
shall remain I will rejoice I will declare
God is my victory and He is here
This is my prayer in the battle

Confession and Forgiveness

If it is true that God has recorded our failings, we hope it will never be published. But in truth, if the book was opened, every page would be blank, for God forgives us of everything we have done, or failed to do. So, let us wait for God's mercy and grace, as we come with our prayers for forgiveness, saying,

We are set free by your saving grace, Generous God, yet we must confess how we are still bound by our pride and arrogance. We seem unable to throw off our habitual sin. We cling to our fears, for they are so familiar and make such good companions.

Forgive us, and break the bonds of sin and terror, giving us new strength and hope for the journey, and calling us to new life through the love and sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand *Chorus*

All of my life in ev'ry season
You are still God I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship (REPEAT)
Chorus

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favour and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow

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Assurance of Forgiveness

You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us that love which never fades, that life which never ends.

We wait for God, and God does not fail us. God's hope, God's love, and God's grace are forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The 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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I 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."

So 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. I 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. Then 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." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then 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.' Therefore 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I 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

Second Reading: Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: John 11:1-45

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

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

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

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

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

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

Song

Jesus Messiah

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the
cross. Love so amazing love so amazing

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners

The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil
was torn. Love so amazing love so
amazing

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all

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Baptism #227 Anthony Carroll, Derek Girard, & Isla Girard

Prayers of the Church

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Communion

**Chaconne; Heartstrings
Gail Boyd & Mary Katharine Morgan**

Benediction: (based on Psalm 130)

Wait for the LORD,

I wait with deep longing; and in his word I stand, waiting in hope.

Hope in the LORD!

**For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with the LORD is great power to save.**

Go into the world with assurance, hope and promise: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon you; the love of God, creator and giver of life, embrace you; and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit uphold you, this day and all your days. **Amen.**

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Song: *This is Amazing Grace (See Pages 1 & 2)*

Go in peace, serve the Lord

Thanks be to God

Announcements

Bible Study: Thursdays at 10:00 at the Parish House and via Zoom.

Senior Worship/Luncheon: Tuesday, April 18th at 11:00 AM.

Lenten Supper/Service: Wednesday at 6:15/7:00 PM.

Needleworks: Thursday, April 20th at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Fellowship Meeting: Sunday, April 9th at 8:00 AM.

Friends and Family Breakfast: Sunday, April 9th at 10:00 AM.

Friendship Circle: Tuesday, April 11th at 9:30 AM in the Parish House.

Musikgarten: Fridays at 10:00 AM.

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 2nd from 10-11 AM.

St. George Book Club: Thursday, March 30th at 6:30 PM in the Parish House.

Prayers of Grace & Support

Please pray for:

- Linda Garr, having surgery on March 30th.
- Dr. Mark Wilson, hospitalized with brain tumor.
- Jeanie Petersburg, recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- Georgia, Gail's friend's granddaughter born premature and having health concerns.
- Gail's piano teacher and friend who had back surgery.
- Mary, Gail's friend, whose nephew died suddenly at 35 years old.
- Tracy M., friend of Bryan Rush, for healing from shoulder injury and safe travel on vacation.

- All those affected by gun violence, especially students, faculty, and staff at Michigan State University.
- John D, friend of Bryan Rush, suffering from Diabetes Type II.
- People of Turkey and Syria suffering from the aftermath of the major earthquake.
- Alia's daughter, being treated for thyroid cancer.
- Mary Anne Eppley, Linda Walton's sister-in-law, recovering from brain surgery.
- Davian Bennett, Gail's piano student, who is recovering from ear surgery.
- Lynne Morris, Michele Hirschman's friend, for a successful March surgery outcome.
- Karen Hedden, Colene's daughter-in-law, recovering from surgery.
- Susan Zaske recovering from a liver transplant.
- Bryan Rush for a successful court date coming soon.
- Bill Foster in assisted living.
- Kathy Boyes with health challenges.
- Melissa Alofalter, Angela Martin's friend, battling an unknown medical issue, beginning with MS and COVID.
- Ray, Alia's older brother, who has COVID along with severe RA and heart problems.
- Dottie Woodman, recovering.
- Arlene, Alia's friend, suffering persistent pain in her neck, shoulder and arm.
- Margaret Doane, Kristiina H.'s friend, with breast cancer.
- Micah, Alia's nephew, with a chronic infection and declining health.
- Barb Gienapp with health concerns.
- Ethan and his mom, Marianne, as they are dealing with major physical and emotional struggles. From Linda Walton.
- Theo Evans being treated for leukemia.
- Joan Richardson, dealing with health concerns.
- Cindy Brach with health issues.
- John Brach with health issues.
- Prayers for all those suffering in Ukraine.
- Charlie Davis, Marylou's husband, with cancer.
- Jon Brach and his family with health and life difficulties.
- Pan Norton, Cindy Brach's son's mother-in-law.
- Jackie (Gail's piano student) diagnosed with throat cancer.
- Theresa Pope, fiancé of Michael Knight, for her battle with breast cancer.
- Niece of Elaine McIntyre, Patsy McIntyre Costin, diagnosed with colon cancer.
- Terry Pitt, Collene Hedden's brother -in-law, with auto-immune disease.
- Vicki, Kristiina Herbst's neighbor, with health concerns.
- Beulah & Mark who are having health and life difficulties.