**Lent 5A- March 26, 2023- Zion, Philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are worshiping today. We acknowledge that they have occupied and cared for this land over countless generations, We remember their love of this land and seek a new relationship based in honour and deep respect.

**ANNOUNCMENTS-**

Welcome to worship on this 5th and final Sunday of Lent. I am back from holidays, it was wonderful to get away with friends, to spend some time in the sun, and watch the Blue Jays go 2 for 3.

Thank you to all who participated in our Action Sunday last week, over 50 bags were prepared and will be sent off to Freeport along with a number of comforters from Project RED. Thanks to Chrissie and Susan for their work on this and to Beth Martin for sharing her time last Sunday.

Next Saturday April 1  9:30 am-12:15 pm- Nith Valley Roundup at Trinity Tavistock to discuss the current realities of the congregations in the NVMA and how we can work together as a Ministry Area in the future in a hopeful way. AB’s Adam Snook and Doug Reble will join us to share the statistical information of what congregations currently look like and will look like in three to five years. This will be followed by an opportunity for our congregations to have honest conversation with each other about the challenges we are all facing but also the hopes for our future as a ministry area. If you would like to attend this event please let me know ASAP.

**Reminder of the COngregational Meeting regarding our accessibility project after worship today**

**GATHERING SONG*Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* (ELW 334)**

1 Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,  
in your death we are reborn;  
though you die in all of hist'ry,  
still you rise with ev'ry morn,  
still you rise with ev'ry morn.  
  
2 We remember truth once spoken,  
love passed on through act and word;  
ev'ry person lost and broken  
wears the body of our Lord,  
wears the body of our Lord.  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall follow,  
stumbling though our steps may be;  
one with you in joy and sorrow,  
we the river, you the sea,  
we the river, you the sea.  
  
Lent 5  
God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death,  
hold us close through each tomorrow,  
love as near as ev'ry breath.

**GREETING (ELW p. 138)**

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.**

**KYRIE*Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved:* (ELW 602)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)**

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING:****Ezekiel 37:1-14**

A reading from Ezekiel.

*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.”*

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, “Prophesy 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, “Prophesy 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**

A reading from Romans.

*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.*

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 (ELW p. 142)**

**Return to the Lord, your God,** **for he is gracious and merciful,**

**slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,** **and abounding in steadfast love.**

**GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

The holy gospel according to John.

**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 (ELW p. 143)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*What Wondrous Love Is This* (ELW 666)**

1 What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?  
  
2 When I was sinking down,  
sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown  
for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.  
  
3 To God and to the Lamb  
I will sing, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb,  
who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme,  
I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.  
  
4 And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing God's love for me,  
and through eternity  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and through eternity I'll sing on.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the world, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness and injury of the body, mind and spirit *especially* Sarah, Chris, John, Stuart, Edna, Susan, Marg, Marlene, Felix, Nancy Ann, Jean, Hilde, Randy, Elaine our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts ( good pause). Hear us when we call to you, deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministry of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. 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.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 143)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 885)**

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)**

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING- DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

 Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,** **heaven and earth are full of your glory.** **Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.** **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.** **Hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)**

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG – Lamb of God (ELW p. 146)**

**COMMUNION HYMNS-** **#337, #886**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Restore in Us, O God (BAYLOR)* (ELW 328)**

1 Restore in us, O God,  
the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts,  
and all our sins remove.  
  
2 O Spirit, wake in us  
the wonder of your pow'r;  
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives  
like springtime bud and flow'r.  
  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share  
the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life  
that death cannot destroy.

4 Three-personed God, fulfill  
the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends,  
may see you face to face.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

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