## VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifth Sunday in Lent March 26, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

# Vashon Lutheran Church <br> Fifth Sunday in Lent <br> March 26, 2023 10:30 AM Worship 

## PRELUDE:

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.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Patte Wagner, Lay Leader
Pastor (P): Blessed be the holy Trinity, $\ddagger$ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

## C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:
Rev. Thomas M. Aitken
P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.
Silence for reflection
P: Holy God,
C: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, $\Psi$ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

## C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn (next page):
ELW, \#886, vs. 1, 2, 4\& 6

## Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



5 Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## C: And also with you.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the


## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: 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.

## Congregation may be seated

L: A reading from Ezekiel, Chapter 37.
L: 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, "Prophesy 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, "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." 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." Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.


Out ${ }^{I}$ of the depths *I cry to ${ }^{I}$ you, O Lord;
O LORD, ${ }^{\mid}$hear my voice! *Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my ${ }^{\text {| }}$ supplication. If you were to keep watch ${ }^{\text {' over sins, }}{ }^{*}$ O Lord, ${ }^{\text {' who could stand? }}$
Yet with you ${ }^{\prime}$ is forgiveness, *in order that you ${ }^{\prime}$ may be feared.
I wait for you, O Lord; ${ }^{\mid}$my soul waits; in your word ${ }^{\prime}$ is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch ${ }^{\mid}$for the morning,
*more than those who keep watch ${ }^{\mid}$for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the Lord there is ${ }^{1}$ steadfast love;
*with the Lord there is plen- ${ }^{\prime}$ teous redemption.
For the LORD shall ${ }^{\mid}$redeem Israel $*$ from ${ }^{\mid}$all their sins.

L: A reading from Romans, Chapter 8.
L: To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's lawindeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But 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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of $\sin$, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If 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.
Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

## Please stand as able

## LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL: John 11:1-45
Rev. Thomas M. Aitken
P: The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 11. C: Glory to you, O Lord.
P: 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. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated
Rev. Thomas M. Aitken Congregation stands as able

## Christ Is the Life



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931-1991
Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.
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## THE APOSTLES' CREED:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

## Congregation may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:
Harriet Nelson, Assisting Minister (A)
A: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

A: 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.

A: 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.
A: You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. We especially remember those for whom we pray either silently or aloud... Merciful God, receive our prayer.

A: Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries 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.

A: 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.
P: 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. C: Amen.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.


Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

## OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING:

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
P: 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:


## WORDS OF INSTITUTION/COMMUNION:

P: 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER:

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion: P: This is the table, not of this church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little; come, you who have been here often and you who have not been here in a long time. Come, you who have never been before; come, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, not because the church invites you; this is Christ, and he invites you to meet him right here.

## What Wondrous Love Is This



Text: North American folk hymn, 19 th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, Southern Harmonv, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt.
Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

P: Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

## BLESSING:

P: God, the giver of love, $\ddagger$ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. Amen.

Sending Song:
ELW, \#758

## You Are the Way



Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.
Music: DUNDEE, Psalter, Edinburgh, 1615

DISMISSAL: P: Go in peace. Serve in love. C: Thanks be to God.
POSTLUDE:

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## Worship Assistants Today:

Guest Pastor - Rev. Thomas M. Aitken
Assisting Minister - Harriet Nelson
Lector - Patte Wagner
Communion Assistant - Gail Larson
Usher - Jim Dam, Quinn D'Artell
Musician - Marita Ericksen
Cantor - Quinn D'Artell
Communion Set Up - Gail Larson
Flowers - Gary \& Marlee Koch

Worship Assistants next week (4/2/23):
Guest Pastor - Rev. Melvin Jacob
Assisting Minister - TBA
Lector - Marlee Koch
Communion Assistants - TBA
Usher - Jim Dam
Musician - Dinah Helgeson
Cantor - Dr. Gary Koch
Communion Set Up - TBA
Flowers - Gary \& Marlee Koch

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Rev. Thomas M. Aitken, for leading us in worship today!
IFCH Dinner Program: The fourth Thursday of each month VLC is to provide the ingredients for five hand out meals at Vashon Presbyterian Church at 5:00 PM. Contact Patte Wagner: pattewags@aol.com if you wish to help. IFCH will provide containers for packaging the food into meal-to-go bags.

AARP Free Tax Preparation - Thursdays, February 9 - April 7, 2023. Open between 10:00 AM 3:00 PM. By appointment: vashonaarp@gmail.com.

In September, 2023 we are having our annual rummage sale. Please begin gathering items, but keep them home for now. In spring, June Langland will tell you when items can be brought to the church.

Giving Your Offering - If you would like to continue giving an offering to VLC, our mailing address is: Vashon Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 2930, Vashon, WA 98070.

The Care Closet, Medical Equipment/Supplies - 206-473-8715. Vashon Care Network - 206-604-3253. Email: contact@vashoncarenetwork.org; website: www.vashoncarenetwork.org

The Vashon Ecumenical Book Group will discuss the novel, To Cook a Bear, by Mikael Niemi, 4:00-5:30 PM, Sun., April 2, in the social hall of Vashon Lutheran Church, 18623 Vashon Hwy SW. Cheryl Weise will facilitate. An international bestseller, To Cook a Bear, set in 1852 in Sweden, is the tale of a runaway boy mentored by a scholarly pastor as they investigate a murder in their village $\&$ discuss life's deepest questions. The villagers believe a predatory bear is the murderer. But in a community riven by exploitation, alcoholism, \& revivalism, the boy \& the pastor are convinced that a far worse killer is on the loose. Niemi, who grew up \& lives in the northernmost part of Sweden, has won national \& international awards for his writing, including best book of the year awards in Sweden \& the UK. Our May 7 book, facilitated by Deborah Anderson, is The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, and A Jew -- Three Women Search for Understanding, by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, \& Priscilla Warner.

On Easter Sundays before the pandemic, we would join together for a joyous start to our celebration by having breakfast \& good fellowship. We're doing that again on Easter Sunday, April 9 9th It'll be potluck, so bring a dish to share. Any type of breakfast dish is welcome - an egg casserole, a meat dish, breads, fruits, or whatever you like. Coffee, tea \& juice will be furnished. We'd like to start at 9:00 AM, so that we'll be ready to go the 10:30 AM worship service. Any questions, give me a call. June Langland 206-463-5850

The Vashon Island Chorale, directed by Dr. Gary D. Cannon, celebrates the various moods of an evening at the water. Highlights include the acclaimed settings of James Agee's "Sure on this shining night" by Samuel Barber and Morten Lauridsen. Arrangements by Aaron Copland of traditional American tunes join William Averitt's dramatic and optimistic "The Song We Sing." "At the Water's Edge," a suite by Kevin Seigfried \& Sarah Orne Jewett, reflects on a Maine seaside village, just as Bronwyn Edwards's "Seashore" depicts our own Vashon Island. The Youth Choir from McMurray Middle School will also be featured. VLC members Gary Koch, June Langland, Dennis Drewes and Marita sing with Vashon Island Chorale.

Contact Gail Larson (206/567-4779) with your prayer requests.

## OUR FAITH IN ACTION

## SUNDAY

$1^{\text {st }}$
10:30 AM
April 2, 4:00-5:30 PM
6:30-8:30 PM
Food Bank Sunday
Worship
Ecumenical Book Group at VLC
AA Group

Intercessory Prayer Group
Mission Planning Committee ZOOM Mtg.
TUESDAY
$2^{\text {nd }}$, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
$3^{\text {rd }}, \mathbf{1 0 : 0 0}$ AM - noon
WEDNESDAY
$1^{\text {st }}$, 9:00 AM - noon
March 22, 7:00 PM
THURSDAY
Feb. 9-Apr. 7, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Apr. 27, 5:00 PM
FRIDAY
7:00-8:30 PM

Quilt Sewers Group
Vashon Quilting Group

Lutheran Quilters Group
Council ZOOM Meeting

AARP Free Tax Prep, by appointment IFCH Dinner prepared by VLC, served at VPC

AA Group for Men


Vashon Lutheran Church
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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 11 AM-2 PM
Phone: 206-463-2655
email: vlc98070@centurytel.net
website: www.vashonlutheran.org

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\text { Hymns for Mar. 26, } 2023
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ELW, 886, v. 1,2,4 \& 6 Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ACS, 927
Christ Is the Life

ELW, 754
Jesus, the Very Thought of You

What Wondrous Love is This

ELW, 758
You Are the Way

