



Weekly Announcements

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

For Week of March 26, 2023

WELCOME PASTOR CHRISTOPHERSON

Pastor Christopherson (Pastor C) began his ministry with us on March 15. This is an exciting time for Mt. Carmel. Let's give Pastor Christopherson a warm Mt. Carmel welcome!

SOUP SUPPER AND CULVER'S LUNCH

Our final Lenten community meal will be served Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. There will also be one last lunch at Culver's in St. Anthony at 11:30 a.m. Order your food and join the group for prayer and discussion in the meeting room.

FOUNDATION MATCHING GIFT – 1 FOR 2!

All special offerings over and above your pledged giving for 2023 will be matched 50% by the Mt. Carmel Foundation. For example, your \$2.00 gift will be matched with \$1.00 to grow to \$3.00! Please designate any amount you'd like to give to this as "1 for 2 match" and we will track our progress towards the 6/30/23 benchmark of \$5000. We'll report our success to the Foundation, and they will add their dollars! **Join in the fun to erase the deficit.**

BOOK STUDY GROUP MOVIE NIGHT – MAR. 30

Join the Book Study Group for a movie based on their most recent book called Neither Wolf Nor Dog. Meet in the Youth Room at 6:30 p.m.

CARE NOTES

Are you or a loved one struggling with a diagnosis of cancer or dementia? Are you having difficulties as a caregiver? Have you recently lost a job? These are a few of the topics addressed by Care Notes. They are being provided by our Befriender Ministry. Browse the pamphlets on the shelves beneath the flower sign up sheet in the narthex, and take one or more for yourself or a loved one. If you would like to speak to someone more in depth about one of these subjects, call the church office or Pr. Dave Olson at 651-528-7459.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar. 28 – Mary Jauss
Mar. 30 – Ellen Surbrook
Mar. 31 – Alison Wirth
Apr. 1 – Chris McMahon

EASTER LILY GARDEN

Sponsor a lily for the altar for Easter Sunday. Each plant is \$10 and yours to take home after the service. Pay online or by special offering envelope. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or let the office know how you'd like your name and honoree to be written in the bulletin.

3RD SUNDAY OFFERING – EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Do you know someone that we can help this Easter through our Food Basket outreach program? Please let the church office, Kathy Halverson or Barb Hollister know. We will once again be doing Cub gift cards so families can choose the foods that work best for their families. We would like to support up to **18 families**. Thank you in advance for supporting this very important ministry.



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



www.mtcarmel.net



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THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- The Naylor family, grieving the loss of 16-year-old Gianna last week.
- Annette Dahl, recovering in rehab after a fall
- The Nordeen family, grieving the loss of Matt's father, Tom.
- Lorraine Carlson, grieving the sudden loss of her brother-in-law to a heart attack, followed by his son's death two days later from cancer
- Judy Ann, Jessica Walz's mother, for strength and peace as she addresses heart issues
- Jessica Walz, for strength as she provides primary care for her mother
- The family of Rudy Roy, who passed away on March 8
- Katy, Bob and Sandy Bauer's daughter, healing after successful cancer treatment
- Steve Metzler, Janell Wampler's friend, undergoing cancer treatment for a brain tumor
- Marilyn, Janell Wampler's sister, whose wound is almost healed and is staying in the health care center.

To include your prayers on this list, contact the church office.

REMEMBERING TO GIVE

Please continue to support our congregation with your faithful financial contributions to Mt. Carmel as you are able. There are several ways to give:

- Mail your check to the church or drop off in the secure mailbox.
- Online by credit card or bank account. Visit mountcarmelmpls.org/give or scan the QR code for online giving opportunities.



Your generous support for Mt. Carmel and our ministry is truly appreciated.

HOMEBOUND AND LONG-TERM CARE

Ethel Antonson, Marlene Black, Lorraine Carlson, Annette Dahl, Gerry Johnson, and Dorothy Warhol

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Sunday school (preschool-5th grade) and youth group will follow worship, running from 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.



STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

D Foy Christopherson, Pastor

Ext. 103, pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Ruth Bills, Director of Music

Ext. 120, ruthabills@gmail.com

Nancy Nordeen, Office Administrator

Ext. 101, office@mountcarmelmpls.org

Steve Panning, Maintenance Engineer

Ext. 104, building@mountcarmelmpls.org

Brenda Wetzel, Child Care Director

Ext. 107, childcare@mountcarmelmpls.org



MT CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1701 St Anthony Parkway NE

Minneapolis, MN 55418

Office Phone: 612-781-2796

Office Email: office@mountcarmelmpls.org



612-781-2796



office@mountcarmelmpls.org



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Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023

Congregation parts are printed in **bold**.

For those communing at home, please make sure you have the following items on hand and ready for communion: Bread on a small plate. You may put a cloth or napkin on top if you like. Wine or grape juice (or some other beverage) and small glasses to drink from.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept 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, ☩ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886 verses 1,3,4,6

**1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.**

**4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**

**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.**

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

WELCOME

WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

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 round 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.'

SECOND READING

Romans 8: 6-11

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 law—indeed 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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord

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 READING

John 11: 1-45

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

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: *The Death of Lazarus*

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.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for 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.'

Jesus Weeps

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?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

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 for 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 upwards 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.'

The Plot to Kill Jesus

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus is a Rock in Weary Land

ELW 333

Refrain:

**Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in a time of storm.**

- 1 No one can do like Jesus,
not a mumbling word he said;**

**he went walking down to Lazarus' grave,
and he raised him from the dead. *Refrain***

- 2 When Jesus was on earth,
the flesh was very weak;
he took a towel and girded himself
and he washed his disciples' feet. *Refrain***

- 3 Yonder comes my Savior,
him whom I love so well;
he has the palm of victory
and the keys of death and hell. *Refrain***

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

A brief silence.

L: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

L: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

L: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness *especially*..... 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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

L: 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.

PEACE

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

“Feed Me Lord”

Flute: Jenny Focht

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Change My Heart O God

ELW 801

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

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.**

C: **Amen.**

MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

C: **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

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Lamb of God

ELW p. 146

C: **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

P: This is the body of Christ, broken for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

For those communing online, take the bread. This is the body of Christ, broken for you. Now take the cup. This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: 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.

C: **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Restore in Us O God

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to remain and enjoy the postlude.

Healing Prayer

Individual prayer and (optional) laying on of hands for healing will be offered this morning following the postlude.

You are invited, no matter your need of healing, for body, mind or spirit; or you might pray for the healing of another.

You will not be expected to speak or explain your need unless you wish.

Meet Pastor C or other healing ministers at the front of the church.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding.....Rev. D Foy Christopherson
Music DirectorRuth Bills
Guest Musician.....Jenny Focht
Altar GuildJanell Partyka
LiturgistTrina Benedict
LectorPatrick Kutzer
Soundboard TechPaul Lathrop and Erik Ruser
Usher.....Fred Chinquist and Steve Ristuben
Mini-busDoug Jacobsen
Coffee Fellowship.....Barb Hollister and Karen Moller

Altar flowers are given by Brian and Jody Wirth. Happy birthday, Alison!

Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing - Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Jesus is a Rock - Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

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