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Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
March 29, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed by the Holy Trinity, one God,
who is present in ordinary circumstances,
who is present in extraordinary circumstances,
who gives us life and who gives us hope and a time for renewal.

Amen

The writer of Psalm 130 declares,
*“If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness!”*
And so we confess together.

Silent for reflection.

Grace-filled God,

Have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have taken for granted
our everyday activities, our everyday resources,
that in those ordinary events, we have turned away from you,
sinning against you and our neighbors.**

**In some instances, we know what we have done wrong;
at other times, we do not.**

In our playing, we have not always been kind to others.

In our consumption, we have not always been generous or have cared for creation.

We have not always remembered to love our neighbors.

**And so we pray that you create in us new hearts,
that you turn us back to you, and that you forgive us.**

Amen.

God says in Ezekiel, “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live.”

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

May you be at peace in the gift of God’s abundant life.

Amen

SONG

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
 Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

BEACH SPRING
 87 87 D

GREETING

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

Have mercy on us Lord,

And hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word;

It saves us from despair

Have mercy on us Christ,

And wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole

That new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord,

Make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving power

Create in us new hearts.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, out of love you created the world, and because of your love you came to live and die and rise among us. Help us to love our neighbors, ourselves, and you, and teach us the extraordinary power that love has to change minds, hearts, and the future. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE 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 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, '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, prophecy, 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 prophecy, 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.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 11: 1 - 45

The Gospel according to John, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 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.'

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 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.'

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

Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary: Love

Pastor Will Johnson



APOSTLES' CREED

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 the 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

Prayer Response:

Hear us, O God.

Your Mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always
And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed by 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

BENEDICTION

May the Triune God,
The one who makes ordinary things extraordinary,
Be with you in all that you do, all that you say,
And all that you are.
Amen

SONG

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

Refrain - All

Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a

wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a

wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

Leader or All

1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
 2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
 3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .

mum-bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -
 flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -
 whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
 ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.
 - to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

SENDING

Go in peace, always living the love of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE