

**All are welcome here!**

This church and this altar belong to God, and not to us. All people are welcome to participate in every aspect of our worship, including our open table for the Eucharist. We are honored by your presence this day and hope you find peace and refreshment as we celebrate the extravagant love of God, as followers of *the Way* of Jesus.

**Fifth Sunday in Lent – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

*The Lord our God makes all things new. In the reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.*

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us in community as people of the Way.*

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*The assembly stands to collectively center for worship and contemplate God's graciousness.*

Restore our fortunes, loving God, like springtime rivers flowing in the mountains.

***Restore our fortunes, loving God.***

My friends, please don't tire of the discipline of Lent.

***Restore our fortunes, loving God.***

God says: Look, I am now doing a new thing, as it springs to life, do you even notice it?

***We press on towards the goal, our prize is the uplifting call of God in Christ Jesus.***

Let everyone praise the grace of the Lord.

***The Lord's name be praised!***

**KYRIE ELEISON** (*Lord, have mercy*)

ELW 157

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.***

For the reign of God, and for peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all,

let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.***

For Your peo-ple here who have come to give You praise, for the strength to live Your word,

let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.***

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God. ***A-men.***

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ,  
the love of God, and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! ***And also with you!***

**PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Let us pray: You God, only You! You who are the holy Source of our lives, the Friend on the journey, the Savior when we fall, and in the hour of success the Joy that makes our joy complete. We Your much-loved children gather to worship and adore You. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, ***Amen!***

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in poetry, creative writing, scripture, preaching, and song.*

**A READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE (Tanakh):** Isaiah 43:16-21

*God's Word Translation\**

*The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.*

<sup>16</sup> The LORD makes a path through the sea and a road through the strong currents.

<sup>17</sup> [God] leads chariots and horses, an army and reinforcements. (They lie down together and do not get up again. They are extinguished and snuffed out like a wick.) This is what the LORD says:

<sup>18</sup> Forget what happened in the past, and do not dwell on events from long ago.

<sup>19</sup> I am going to do something new. It is already happening. Don't you recognize it? I will clear a way in the desert. I will make rivers on dry land.

<sup>20</sup> Wild animals, jackals, and ostriches will honor me. I will provide water in the desert. I will make rivers on the dry land for my chosen people to drink.

<sup>21</sup> I have formed these people for myself. They will praise me.

***Response*** Word of God, Word of life! ***Thanks be to God!***

## PSALM 126

*read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, it was as if we were dreaming.

<sup>2</sup> **Then our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with joyful songs. Then the nations said, "The LORD has done spectacular things for them."**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done spectacular things for us. We are overjoyed.

<sup>4</sup> **Restore our fortunes, O LORD, as you restore streams to dry riverbeds in the Negev.**

<sup>5</sup> Those who cry while they plant will joyfully sing while they harvest.

<sup>6</sup> **The person who goes out weeping, carrying his bag of seed, will come home singing, carrying his bundles of grain.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 151

*The assembly stands to welcome Jesus, the living Word, in song.*

**Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

*Preface* The Holy Gospel according to John! **Glory to you, O Lord!**

## A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPELS (*Good News*): John 12:1-8

*God's Word Translation*

<sup>12</sup> Six days before Passover, Jesus arrived in Bethany. Lazarus, whom Jesus had brought back to life, lived there. <sup>2</sup> Dinner was prepared for Jesus in Bethany. Martha served the dinner, and Lazarus was one of the people eating with Jesus.

<sup>3</sup> Mary took a bottle of very expensive perfume made from pure nard and poured it on Jesus' feet. Then she dried his feet with her hair. The fragrance of the perfume filled the house.

<sup>4</sup> One of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was going to betray him, asked, <sup>5</sup> "Why wasn't this perfume sold for a high price and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (Judas didn't say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the moneybag and carried the contributions.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to Judas, "Leave her alone! She has done this to prepare me for the day I will be placed in a tomb." <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me with you."

*Response* The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

## COLLECT (*Collecting our hearts for the Message*)

Let us pray: Giver of the most expensive gift of all, help us to learn from You. May we who are so adept at catering for our own wants, make ourselves more vulnerable to the needs of others. Let us live unselfishly and more sensitively, that we may spread love's fragrance wherever the odor cynicism and despair hangs in the air. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior we pray and we say, **Amen!**

## MESSAGE

*Pastor Andrew*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Christ, the life of all the living*

ELW 339

## CONFESSION & RENEWAL

I

Let us bow in penitence before the God of truth and grace as we pray: Look upon us, merciful God, as we really are. Please penetrate beyond our outward show into our true selves, that we may find the courage of self-honesty and repentance, and receive the blessing of forgiveness.

*Silent Prayer*

On the sins which we confess and those that we have not yet recognized;

**Lord have mercy.**

On the sins that we loathe and those of which we have been too tolerant;

**Christ have mercy.**

On the basis of our profound needs, not on our preferences and conditions;

**Lord have mercy.**

Merciful God, saving Friend, by the costly grace of Your crucified Son please save us from the evil which has corrupted our lives. Forgive our sins and set us free from their hold on our days. Renew the well-springs of our faith and love, and prepare us to surmount the pressures and temptations that are yet to come. Through Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen!**

At morning, noon and sunset, God is available to all who sincerely desire the healing grace of Christ Jesus. Only those who hide away cannot not share the goodness of God's mercy which falls freely like sunshine and rain. So stand in the open, look up and be blessed!

There is Divine renewal in every breath we draw, and in every bible promise we take to heart.

In the name of ✠ Christ Jesus, Savior of the world, I declare to all who turn to God in repentance and faith: Our sins are forgiven! Go in peace! **Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please let the perfume of Your love flow through us, gracious God, and save the people of this world from the sometimes rampant, sometimes subtle, forces of corruption and death.

Whenever church councils are in denial about the true health of congregations and the opportunities for outreach: come Savior Christ and deal with us.

***Please hear our prayers and strengthen our will to truly love.***

Whenever ministers and counsellors are in denial about their own wants, and push for outcomes that suit them rather than the needs of their clients: come Savior Christ and deal with us.

***Please hear our prayers and strengthen our will to truly love.***

Whenever politicians are in denial about their own compromises and bad errors, and become strident and irrelevant to the major needs of a nation: come Savior Christ and deal with us.

***Please hear our prayers and strengthen our will to truly love.***

Whenever the members of the United Nations Assembly are in denial about their lack of costly commitment to the weak, poor and oppressed: come Savior Christ and deal with us.

***Please hear our prayers and strengthen our will to truly love.***

Please wipe away the tears of those who weep under the burdens of hard labor, despair and illness (*especially*). Restore them, and bring them into the joy of Your presence. Hear us, O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

Whenever people associated with critical illness and dying, are in denial and therefore unable to give that sensitive love that can relieve loneliness and fear: come Savior Christ and deal with us.

***Please hear our prayers and strengthen our will to truly love.***

For yours is the commonwealth of love, the power that works through the meek, and the glory that from a cross embraces the world. ***Amen!***

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*All are encouraged to greet others in Christ's name.*

The peace of Christ be with you always! ***And, also with you!***

## MEAL

***God feeds us with the presence of the risen and ascended Christ!***

## GATHERING OF GIFTS

*As the gifts of bread, wine, and currency are brought forward, the assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me***

ELW 188

***Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.***

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: God our provider, You have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life! Please bless us and these Your gifts, which we receive from Your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

## PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Be present, Lord Jesus Christ our risen high priest; please make yourself known in the breaking of bread. ***Amen.***

Christ our Passover has made his sacrifice for us: ***therefore let us celebrate the feast.***

## THANKSGIVING FOR JESUS' LIFE AND OUR SALVATION

The Lord be with you! ***And also with you!***

Let us open up your hearts! ***We open them up to the Lord!***

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! ***It is right to give God thanks and praise!***

*Pr. Andrew gives thanks for God's salvation in Jesus Christ.*

## SANCTUS

ELW pg. 207

***Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,***

***heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.***

***Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.***

## CHRIST'S WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Pr. Andrew prays for the Spirit's presence in us who are gathered and the meal we share.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

***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

The bread which we break is a sharing of the body of Christ.

***We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.***

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world. Happy are they who are called to his supper.

***Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.***

***Behold who you are! Become what you receive!***

***Thanks be to God!***

## AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

ELW pg. 208

***REFRAIN - O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;***

- 1) you suffered death our lives to save; have mercy now, we pray.***
- 2) you set us free from guilt and grace; have mercy now, we pray.***
- 3) eternal peace with God you made; give us your peace, we pray.***

## THE EUCHARIST

*(intinction-dipping of host into the chalice of wine or grape juice)*

***Wherever you are from and whatever you believe you are welcome to receive at the table of the Lord.***

***All people are welcomed to The Meal!***

*Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing signified by crossed arms.*

## POST COMMUNION TABLE BLESSING

### POST EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Let us pray: Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, please send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in your holy name, O Christ, and by the power of the Spirit we pray, ***Amen.***

## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

God, who fills creation with abundance,

Christ who spreads his arms in forgiveness,

Holy Spirit, who draws ever near us, ✠ bless us and bring us to everlasting life! ***Amen!***

## SENDING HYMN

*Holy God, Holy and Glorious*

ELW 637

## DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord! ***Thanks be to God!***

## POSTLUDE

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\*Scripture translations are in the public domain and sourced through <http://www.biblegateway.com>

## ALLERGY NOTICES

**NOTE 1:** The chalice next to Pastor Andrew contains wine while, the outside chalice contains grape juice.

**NOTE 2:** If you require a gluten-free offering, uncontaminated by wheat, and uncontaminated wine, please let Pastor Andrew as they are available.



**ELDER FEEDING PROGRAM:** Work has been done in determining that food insecurity exists within the Greendale zip code area, and that Elder Services of Worcester is willing to provide prepared meals for an institution willing to provide staffing (2-3 people per day, 2 or more days/week) and space for a feeding center.

Grace has the perfect location at our Worcester campus. The next work is in:

- a) advertising the program to the Greendale community and establishing an initial roster of people to feed; 25 minimum,
- b) staffing the food serving days (longer term we anticipate volunteers added from the neighborhood),
- c) developing/managing the start-up.

Please call the office if you or someone you know is interested.



**MISSION STATEMENT**

*"To boldly share God's Love and Grace universally in and through our communities."*

**VISION STATEMENT**

*Modeling the welcoming nature of God, we are humbly called and driven by the Spirit to witness, engage and walk with each other authentically, as Jesus' hands and feet, providing spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment. Through evolving partnerships with ecumenical and other social service organizations we affirm justice and wholeness under the "agency of Grace" that feed the needs and hope of all.*

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**Ms. Louisa Klaven**, Associate in Ministry – Licensed Lay Minister

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90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, 01501

**The-Community-of-Zion-Lutheran-Worcester.org**

**BethelAuburnELCA.org**

Organist – Karen Couturier  
Choral/Bell Director – Sally Bond  
President – Donna Hayes

Principal Organist/Choral Director – Brenda Salvi  
Associate Organist/Choral Director – Lois Toepfner, Deacon  
Bell Director – Adam Hanks  
President – Grover Gentry



**A RECONCILING IN CHRIST COMMUNITY**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.