



The God of Lost Causes

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Welcome to Resurrection!

We extend a warm welcome to each one present. As we unite together in worship, may we experience together the grace and mercy of our God through his life-giving Word and sacraments. Guests, below is some information that may help us host you well in the Lord's house. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.



March 29, 2020

5th Sunday in Lent

Visitor Information

Worship at Resurrection Lutheran Church follows the historic liturgy of the Church. Our worship service is designed to give our Savior thanks for the salvation He won for us. Lutheran worship is really a conversation between God and his people. He speaks to us in His Word; we praise Him and respond to Him in song. We confess our sins and needs; He provides the forgiveness Jesus accomplished at the cross, and helps us with our individual needs.

Worship will follow the service folder, guiding us in our dialogue with the Lord. Feel free to participate at whatever level you are comfortable. **Where indicated you will find some of the hymns and psalms in the Christian Worship hymnal.** Whenever the words are printed in bold, the congregation is welcome to join in responding or singing. May God bless us as we place Him at the center of our worship.

Preacher: Pastor Andrew Ewings

Leader: Pastor Nathan Strutz

Pianist: Elizabeth Strutz

✘ WELCOME ✘

OPENING HYMN: 116 "In the Hour of Trial"



1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me
2 With for - bid - den plea - sures Should this vain world charm
3 Should your mer - cy send me Sor - row, toil, and woe,
4 When my life is end - ing, Though in grief or pain,



Lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.
Or its tempt - ing trea - sures Spread to work me harm,
Or should pain at - tend me On my path be - low,
When my bod - y chang - es Back to dust a - gain,



When you see me wa - ver, With a look re - call,
Bring to my re - mem - brance Sad Geth - sem - a - ne
Grant that I may nev - er Fail your cross to view;
On your truth re - ly - ing, Through that mor - tal strife,



Nor for fear or fa - vor Ev - er let me fall.
Or, in dark - er sem - blance, Cross - crowned Cal - va - ry.
Grant that I may ev - er Cast my care on you.
Je - sus, take me, dy - ing, To e - ter - nal life.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Tune: ST. MARY MAGDALENE (65 65 D) John B. Dykes, 1823–76.

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Leader: Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

All: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

All:

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). Below the staff, the lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff also begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is: D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). Below the staff, the lyrics are: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us."

Leader: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Leader: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD



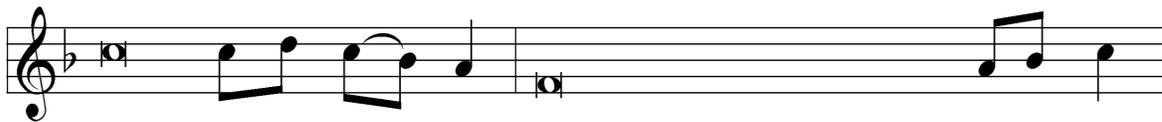
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



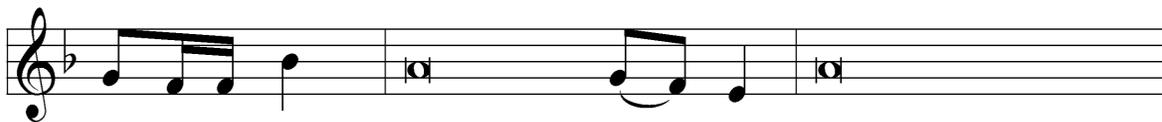
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

FIRST LESSON & SERMON TEXT: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

EHV

The hand of the LORD was upon me. He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley, which was full of bones. ²He had me pass through them and go all over among them. There were very many on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

³He said to me, "Son of man, can these dry bones live?" I answered, "LORD God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'"

⁵This is what the LORD God says to these bones. I am about to make breath enter you so that you will live. ⁶I will attach tendons to you. I will put flesh back on you. I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I was prophesying there was a noise, a rattling, as the bones came together, one bone connecting to another. ⁸As I watched, tendons were attached to them, then flesh grew over them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the wind. Prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind that this is what the LORD God says. From the four winds, come, O wind, and breathe into these slain so that they may live."

¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me. Breath entered them, and they came back to life. They stood on their feet, a very, very large army.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They are saying, 'Our bones are dried up. Our hope is lost. We have been completely cut off.'

¹²Therefore, prophesy and say to them that this is what the LORD God says. My people, I am going to open your graves and raise you up from your graves and bring you back to the soil of Israel. ¹³Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I will settle you on your own land, and you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD."

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 8:11-19

NIV

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation - but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba, Father*" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

CONFESSION OF FAITH - NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 110 "My Song Is Love Unknown"



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew his way And his sweet prais - es
 4 Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and
 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might
 stow, But such dis - dain! So few The longed - for
 sing, Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas
 spite? He made the lame to run; He gave the
 way. A mur - der - er they save; The Prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I That for my
 Christ would know! But oh, my friend, My friend in -
 to their King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their
 blind their sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at
 life they slay. Yet cheer - ful he To suff'r - ing



sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 breath, And for his death They thirst and cry.
 these Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst him rise.
 goes That he his foes From death might free.

6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was his home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing;
 No story so divine,
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–83, alt.
 Tune: LOVE UNKNOWN (66 66 4444) John N. Ireland, 1879–1962. © John Ireland Trust.
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SERMON: PASTOR ANDREW EWINGS

BASED ON: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The God of Lost Causes

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What had just happened to God's people when Ezekiel prophesied?
2. What else can "breath" mean?
3. Why stop before there's life in the bones?
4. What's the point of having Ezekiel say the words?
5. Why did Israel think they were a lost cause?
6. How were you a lost cause?
7. What did God do with the lost cause of the dry bones?
8. What is behind, "My people"?
9. Who else became a lost cause?
10. What did God do to your lost cause?

For Vine and Branches, further discussion:

1. What tempted God's people to despair, and what tempts you to do the same?
2. Agree or disagree (& explain): Ezekiel could not make his prophecy more powerful, but he could have made it less powerful.
3. Discuss the pattern of death, then life: a) in the Valley of Dry Bones, b) in the nation of Israel, c) in the life of our Savior, and d) in your own life.

People:

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Leader: Lord God, you give every good and perfect gift. As your Holy Spirit brings to completion the good work you have begun in us, preserve us from everything that would provide an occasion for falling into sin.
- People: **Teach us to live each day in humble dependence on your promises, in cheerful obedience to your laws, and in sure and certain hope of the resurrection.**
- Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit into the hearts of your faithful people, Lord.
- People: **Comfort us in our afflictions, guide us into all truth, enlighten us with your grace, and kindle in us the fire of your love.**
- Leader: Hear the prayers of those who cry out to you in sickness and sorrow, especially those around the world afflicted with coronavirus.
- People: **Grant relief to those suffering pain, comfort to those who mourn, and recovery to those burdened by illness.**
- Leader: Soothe and heal all who are broken in body or spirit, and bring us all to the perfect peace and rest of heaven, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.
- People: **Amen.**

Leader: We join in the Lord's Prayer:

LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



People: **A - men. A - men. A - men.**

CLOSING HYMN: 211 "I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name" *(found on the following page)*

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HYMN 211 "I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name"



1 I know of a sleep in Je - sus' name, A  
 2 I know of a morn - ing, bright and fair, When  
 3 God's Son to our graves then makes his way; His  
 4 O Je - sus, draw near my dy - ing bed And



rest from all toil and sor - row; Earth folds in her  
 ti - dings of joy shall wake us, When songs from on  
 voice hear all tribes and na - tions; The trum - pet of  
 take me in - to your keep - ing And say when my



arms my wea - ry frame And shel - ters it till the  
 high shall fill the air And God to his glo - ry  
 God will sound the day And shake all the earth's foun -  
 spir - it hence is fled, "This child is not dead, but



mor - row. My soul is at home with God in  
 take us, When Je - sus shall bid us rise from  
 da - tions. He calls out a - loud, "O dead, come  
 sleep - ing." And leave me not, Sav - ior, till I



heav'n; My sor - rows are past and o - ver.  
 sleep— How joy - ous that hour of wak - ing!  
 forth!" In glo - ry we rise to meet him.  
 rise To praise you in life e - ter - nal.

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnary*, Decorah, 1913, alt.  
 Tune: DEN SIGNEDE DAG (98 98 98) Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842.

## LENTEN WORSHIP BEGINS



Special midweek services will be held for the season of Lent. Lent is the forty day season when we focus on Jesus' suffering and death. We see how much he sacrificed and how much he loves us.

Three special reasons to attend these special services (which will all be different from any Sunday service):

1. The Lenten hymns are awesome! Focused on Christ and his love for us.
2. The Passion reading. We will hear again the specific details of Jesus' suffering and death.
3. Special sermons. Pastor Ewings and Vicar will prepare special sermons, along with Pastors Moldenhauer and Cortright from Our Redeemer in Madison and Pastor Bauer from Good News in Mt. Horeb.

Here are the special service dates and times. Note that meals have been cancelled.

**Monroe - Service at 7 pm.**

April 1

**Verona - Service at 6:30 pm.**

April 2



**Maundy Thursday - April 9**

Verona: 6:30pm  
Monroe: 7:00pm

**Good Friday - April 10**

Monroe: 12:00 noon  
Verona: 6:30pm

**Easter Sunday - April 12**

Verona: 7:00am Sunrise Service  
          9:00am Festival Service  
Monroe: 10:30am Festival Service  
No Communion Easter Sunday

**PLEASE NOTE:**

We are making every attempt to continue to worship together as a church family. However, due to the ever-changing conditions with Covid19, we ask that you please monitor the website and our Facebook page for any changes. We will comply with all government mandates as they are issued & modify our gatherings accordingly.

We are posting online worship opportunities for our mid-week Lenten and Sunday services. You will receive notification of them via email and they will also be posted on our Facebook page, our YouTube channel (The Resurrection Channel) and the websites. Resources to follow along will be included.

Your gifts of love are still needed, and can be mailed to the main office: Attention Treasurer, 6705 Wesner Rd, Verona, WI 53593. You also may contribute through your bank's bill-pay service & they will mail the check for you. Or, you may contribute online by contacting the office to obtain the form to do so: [ministrycoordinator@rlcverona.com](mailto:ministrycoordinator@rlcverona.com).

Pastors and Vicar are available for communion by request.



## **Resurrection Lutheran Church Mission Statement**

**Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life....  
A Life He gives and a Life we share**

Resurrection Lutheran Church is a Christian congregation gathered together by a common confession and devotion to God's Word.

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus gives us complete forgiveness of sin and life eternal through His Word and Sacraments.

Therefore, we live through Christ to worship, confess and share the saving truth of the Bible, giving the sure hope of salvation to all.