



## Saron Lutheran Church

Jeanne Larsen, Interim Pastor

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.



Welcome to Saron worship—in person or on [Facebook Live!](#)

Large-print copies of the bulletin are available at Saron's entrances, and from [Saron's website.](#)

### Prelude

Kurt Elliott

### Welcome/Announcements

*The assembly stands.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

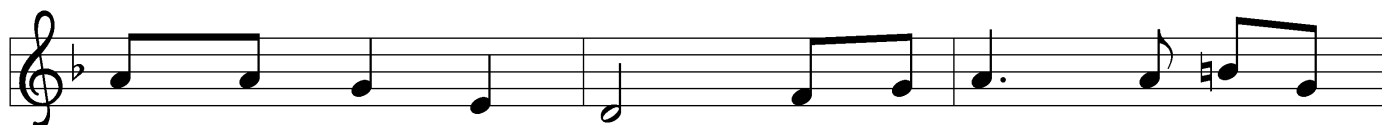
**Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

## Gathering Song | ELW 334: Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
 bod - y of our Lord.  
 riv - er, you the sea.

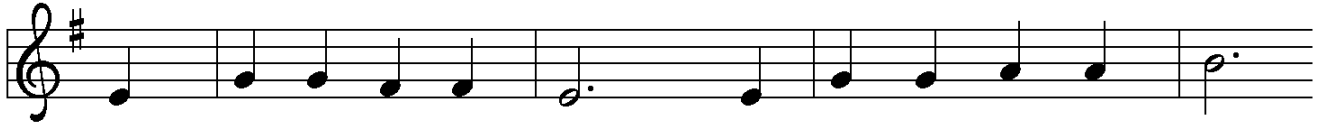
*Lent 5* God of all our fear and sorrow,  
 God who lives beyond our death,  
 hold us close through each tomorrow,  
 love as near as ev'ry breath.

## 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

ELW Setting 10



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## First Reading | Ezekiel 37:1–14

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>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.”

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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.” <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>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.’

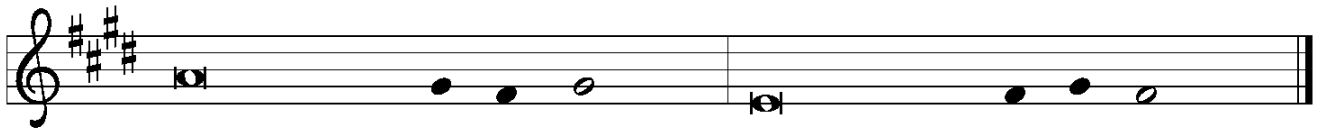
<sup>12</sup>Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>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.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** | Psalm 130

ELW Tone 5

*The assembly will sing the psalm in unison.*



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>1</sup>Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, | hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O LORD, | who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>Yet with you | is forgiveness,  
in order that you | may be feared.  
<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;  
in your word | is my hope.  
<sup>6</sup>My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch | for the morning.  
<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;  
with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.  
<sup>8</sup>For the LORD shall | redeem Israel  
from | all their sins.

**Second Reading** | Romans 8:6–11

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

ELW Setting 10



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Narrator:** 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.

**Mary and Martha:** Lord, he whom you love is ill.

**Jesus:** 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.

**Narrator:** 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.

**Jesus:** Let us go to Judea again.

**The disciples (assembly):** Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?

**Jesus:** 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.

Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.

**The disciples (assembly):** Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.

**Narrator:** Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

**Jesus:** Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.

**Narrator:** Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples

**Thomas:** Let us also go, that we may die with him.

**Narrator:** 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. Then Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

**Martha:** 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:** Your brother will rise again.

**Martha:** I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.

**Jesus:** 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?

**Martha:** Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.

**Narrator:** When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately,

**Marthas:** The Teacher is here and is calling for you.

**Narrator:** 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,

**Mary:** Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

**Narrator:** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

**Jesus:** Where have you laid him?

**Mary and Martha:** Lord, come and see.

**Narrator:** Jesus began to weep.

**Assembly:** See how he loved him!

**All males in the assembly:** Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?

**Narrator:** Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

**Jesus:** Take away the stone.

**Martha:** Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.

**Jesus:** Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?

**Narrator:** So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward

**Jesus:** 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.

**Narrator:** When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice,

**Jesus:** Lazarus, come out!

**Narrator:** The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.

**Jesus:** Unbind him, and let him go.

**Narrator:** 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Children's Sermon and Sermon | Lenore Schmidt

### Hymn of the Day | ELW 758: You Are the Way



- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

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



## **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 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 Intercession**

*After each petition: Merciful God, receive our prayer.*

## **Peace**

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

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Then the assembly is seated.*

## **Offering** | "I Will Rise" –Chris Tomlin

*Thank you for your offerings that support the ministry of Saron Lutheran Church (offering plate)! Your noisy offerings will support the **Gateway Women's Shelter** (jar). Offerings may also be given online through ["Tithe-ly" as linked on the website.](#)*

*The assembly stands.*

## **Offering Prayer**

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.**

## **Thanksgiving for the Word**

Let us pray together.

O God of justice and love, **we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Blessing**

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

## Sending Song | ELW 536: God Be with You Till We Meet Again



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
- 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
- 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,

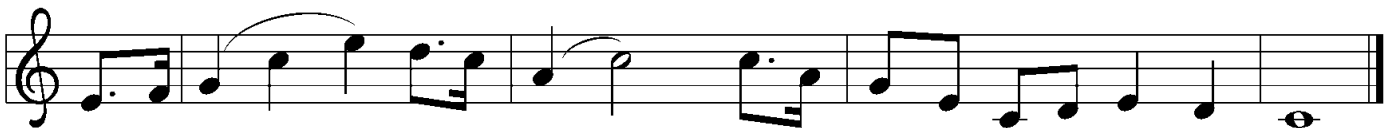


with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

### *Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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**Musician:** Kurt Elliott  
**Lector:** Lyn Goodrum

**Cantor:** Jackie Lanning  
**Sound:** Patrick Tangeman

## Midweek Lenten services at Saron Lutheran Church

Saron invites you to our final Lenten Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer for this season, this Wednesday, March 29. Come for soup provided by Saron members and friends at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship room followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:15 p.m.

## Looking ahead to Holy Week and Easter

- **Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion, April 2:** Worship with palms and donkey procession begins at 8:30 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 6:** Saron offers Maundy Thursday worship with communion at 7 p.m.
- **Good Friday, April 7:** Saron hosts Good Friday worship at 7 p.m., which we will share with our neighbors from Strasburg Presbyterian Church and Byers Community Church.
- **Easter Sunday, April 9:** Alleluias return at Easter Sunday worship at 8:30 a.m. followed by our annual Easter breakfast! We'll have a potluck breakfast this year, so bring your favorite brunch item to share.

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Saron Lutheran Church – celebrating 110 years!

*Mission Statement: Saron Lutheran welcomes all in the name of Christ:  
to know Christ's love | to grow in Christ's love | to go in Christ's love*