**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 26, 2023**



*“Then he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’”*

*(John 11:43)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD

**P: Let your ears be attentive to my supplications**

L: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

**P: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered**

L: For with the LORD there is steadfast love

**P: With him is great power to redeem**

L: It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities

**P: I wait for the LORD and in his word I hope**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “We Bow Down” (vv.1-2)

**You are Lord of creation**

**And Lord of my life**

**Lord of the land and the sea**

**You were Lord of the heavens**

**Before there was time**

**Lord of all lords You will be**

**We bow down**

**And we worship You Lord**

**We bow down**

**And we worship You Lord**

**We bow down**

**And we worship You Lord**

**King of all kings You will be**

**You are King of creation**

**And King of my life**

**King of the land and the sea**

**You were King of the heavens**

**Before there was time**

**And King of all kings You will be**

**We bow down**

**And we crown You the King**

**We bow down**

**And we crown You the King**

**We bow down**

**And we crown You the King**

**King of all kings You will be**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of ours; grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise. Though among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found. May our minds, thoughts, and hearts be inclined to your will, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn:** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #302 (vv.1-4)

**Breathe on me, Breath of God**

**Fill me with life anew**

**That I may love what Thou dost love**

**And do what Thou would do**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God**

**Until my heart is pure**

**Until with Thee, I will one will**

**To do and to endure**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God**

**Till I am wholly Thine**

**Until this earthly part of me**

**Glows with Thy fire divine**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God**

**So shall I never die**

**But live with Thee the perfect life**

**Of Thine eternity**

**Congregational Reading:** Romans 8:6-11

**P: 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.**

**Special Music:** Anne Norman

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 11:1-4, 34-45

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.”

 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 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 upward 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.

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response****:** “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

**I know that my Redeemer lives**

**What comfort this sweet sentence gives**

**He lives, he lives, who once was dead**

**He lives, my ever-living Head**

**He lives triumphant from the grave**

**He lives eternally to save**

**He lives all glorious in the sky**

**He lives exalted there on high**

**He lives and grants me daily breath**

**He lives, and I shall conquer death**

**He lives my mansion to prepare**

**He lives to bring me safely there**

**He lives All glory to his name**

**He lives my Savior still the same**

**What joy the blest assurance gives**

**I know that my Redeemer lives**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Be encouraged, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “He Lives” #262 (vv.1-3)

**I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today**

**I know that He is living, whatever men may say**

**I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer**

**And just the time I need Him, He's always near**

**He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!**

**He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way**

**He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart**

**You ask me how I know He lives?**

**He lives within my heart**

**In all the world around me I see His loving care**

**And though my heart grows weary I never will despair**

**I know that He is leading, thro' all the stormy blast**

**The day of His appearing will come at last**

**He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!**

**He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way**

**He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart**

**You ask me how I know He lives?**

**He lives within my heart**

**Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian! Lift up your voice and sing**

**Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King**

**The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find**

**None other is so loving, so good and kind**

**He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!**

**He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way**

**He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart**

**You ask me how I know He lives?**

**He lives within my heart**

**\*Benediction**

L: May the hand of God protect you. May the teaching of Christ instruct you. May the strength of the Holy Spirit carry you. May you have harmony of the soul, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.