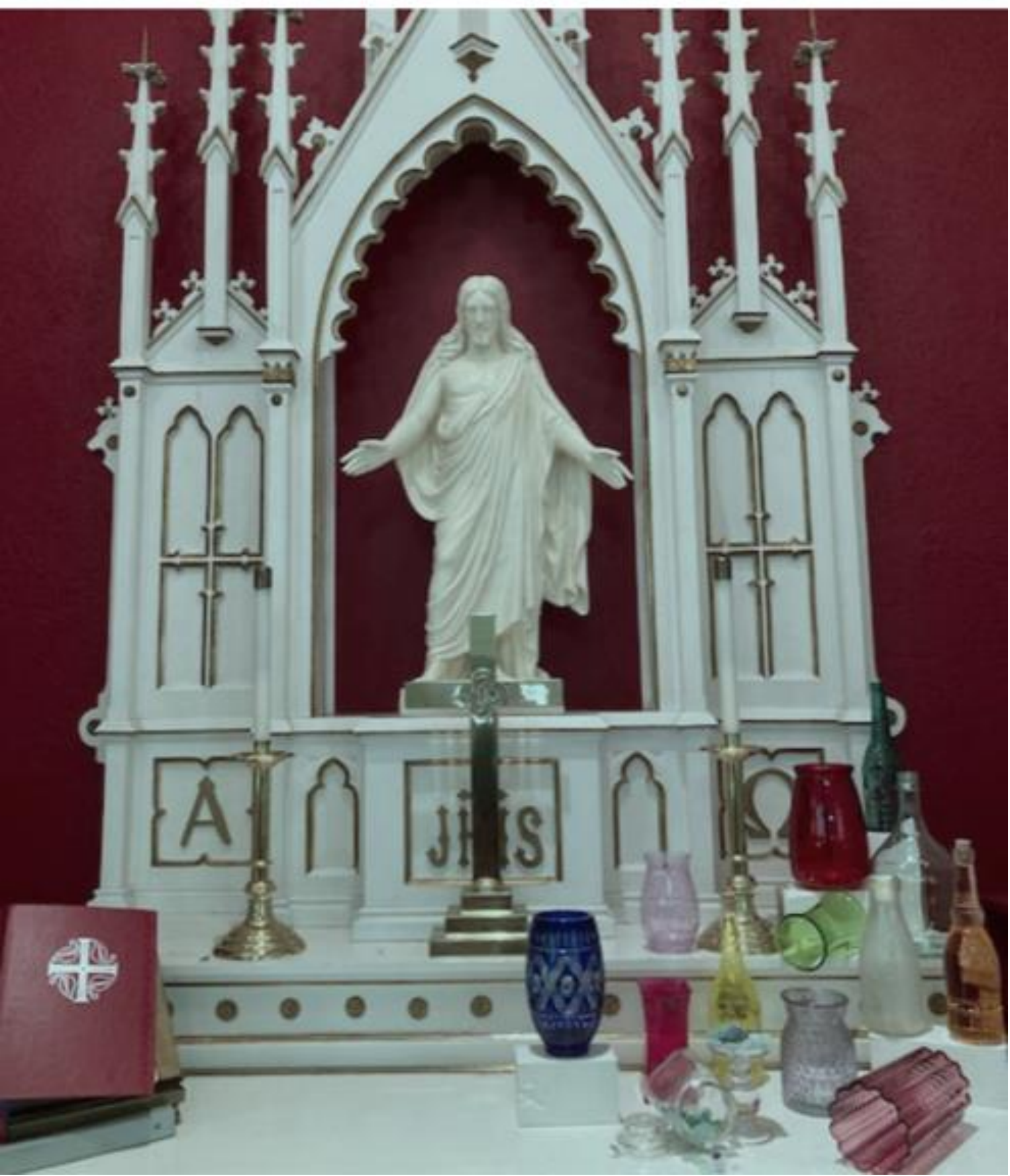


RESTORATION



“Restoration”

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude Welcome

**Vessels, holy and whole, broken, needing the One. Open, body and soul.
Healer, come. (Sung twice, on the second time, all sing)**

Leader: The demands of following Jesus are great. He shows us that sometimes it will take a lot of effort to move in a new direction. As we consider the health of humanity, we cannot ignore the need to heal the very planet that sustains us. This planet, our home, is in trouble. We want to be “saved” by something or someone else, but we discover this week that we are in the boat with the One who shows us our power to turn it around, to calm the storm. We can protect the jewel that is our home, making something beautiful from scars of the past.

**Vessels, holy and whole, Broken, needing the One.
Open, body and soul. Healer, come.**

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew your Holy Vessels: ourselves and our health: physical, emotional, and spiritual; the health of our communities, and the health of the beautiful planet on which we live.

Let us pray:

Merciful God,
**we have lived a year of Lent.
In the midst of it all, we have seen love shine through at times.
But as we look back,
it feels like a year of shattered dreams and shattered peace.
We have gotten discouraged.
Even with so much that was out of our control,
we also see the ways our own faults
and failures to love each other fully, to care for the least,
to honor your creation, to stand for what is right and good,
have all contributed to the shattering.**

**And so we come to you in pieces,
fragments, broken pieces of our past selves.
As we walk along the shores of Uncertainty and Pain,
we ask that you meet us here.**

Help us, Healer.

Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia.

Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for others and for the world you so love.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Silence

Vessels, holy and whole, Broken, needing the One.

Open, body and soul. Healer, come.

Word of Assurance and Forgiveness:

Throughout the season of Lent, we are contemplating the symbol of broken glass—sea (or beach) glass to be specific. Time and adversity make something beautiful out of what was once seen as ordinary and broken.

It becomes a transformed and precious piece.

Jesus attended to those considered ordinary, broken, even those deemed unworthy.

Jesus attends to us.

Know this: God's love and grace surround you.

No. Matter. What.

You are a precious and holy vessel right now.

Christ's light is a treasure given freely.

For you, for me, for all.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen.

Prayer of the day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen, us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Moment

The Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 31.31-34 *(New Revised Standard Edition)*

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm 51.1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,**

so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.

**⁵Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

⁶You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Gospel Matthew 8.18-27

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” Another of his disciples said to him, Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, Lord, save us! We are perishing!” And he said to them, Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?” - Matt 8: 18-27

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

Message

Hymn of the Day “Touch the Earth Lightly” (*NEW Music is printed on next page*) Tenderness 5510 D Text: Shirley E. Murray 1931; Music: Colin Gibson, b. 1933; copyright 1992 Hope Publishing

Touch the Earth Lightly

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Unison

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

nour - ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow and the sun,

gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-)
 MUSIC: Colin Gibson (1933-)
 Words and Music © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

TENDERNESS
 5.5.10.D.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

The Peace Announcements

Today

Zoom Scavenger Hunt

at 2:30 PM Invite your friends and family to join virtually for an exciting time!
Send us a message and we will forward the zoom info. Hope to see you there!

Next Week is Palm Sunday! Easter is coming April 4th and we plan to be in person. Time to celebrate and give thanks or honor loved ones past and present! Send in your dedications please list who they are for and who they are given by. You may choose “in memory,” “in thanksgiving,” or “in honor of”. Let us know if you are bringing a plant or if you would like us to purchase them for you. You may use the donate button or send a check in the amount of \$25 for a lily or \$15 for a spring bulb. We need time to prepare the list so please send no later than April 1. Please let us know if you would like to take your plant home. Thank you!

This Lent - A season of recovery and restoration

Throughout the season of Lent, we will be contemplating the symbol of broken glass—sea (or beach) glass to be specific. Sea glass comes from vessels that have broken, been discarded, and yet time and adversity have transformed into something beautiful.

Time and adversity... making something beautiful out of that which, once seen as ordinary and broken. Broken pieces transformed and precious. This is the journey we are on.. Jesus attended to those considered ordinary, broken, even those deemed unworthy. Jesus attends to us.

Prayers of the Church

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world and all in need.

A brief silence.

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Now go with confidence that, though shattered, we are held.

Remember you are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works,

chosen as holy and beloved,

freed to serve your neighbor.

May God bless you to be a blessing.

In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: “The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

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Augsburg Fortress

(Sing three times)

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth a better place to live.
The angels are not sent into our world of pain
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.

The Dismissal: Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Thanks for joining us!

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