

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2008**

A cordial welcome to all who are visiting with us today! Please sign a Visitor Card from the pew rack or the Guest Book near the entrance. Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments on the front lawn or in the narthex.

A Nursery for children under six is available each Sunday morning from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Lutheran worship calls for more standing than in many non-Lutheran churches. Persons unable to stand during the service may remain seated. Also, persons who have difficulty walking may sit in the very front pew and receive communion there.

Holy Communion in our congregation is open to all baptized Christians. Lutherans believe and teach that in this sacrament Jesus Christ is truly present to heal our brokenness and empower our lives. After the worship leaders have communed, congregants come forward in two lines in the center aisle. They obtain an empty glass or, if preferred, a glass of white grape juice from an usher at the front of the aisle, and then stand around the carpet. Communicants consume the bread and wine right after receiving them. After the blessing, the communicants in front lead the lines to the side aisles, where communion glasses are placed in the baskets provided, and all return to their seats.

Sunday Church School for all ages is available from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. The Adult Class meets in the parish hall. Pastor Peterman is currently leading a study of Colossians.

A Memorial Service for Rose Marie Sontag will be held on Saturday, March 15, at 11:00 a.m., followed by a luncheon in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited.

Calendar

Today	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Congregation Council meeting
Monday	7:30 p.m.	Executive Committee meeting
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Rose Marie Sontag
		Deadline for <i>First Edition</i>
Next Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Choir Scholars rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Church Choir rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Evangelism and Publicity committee
	12:30 p.m.	Education and Fellowship committee
	12:30 p.m.	<i>Selah</i> luncheon

The Order of Service

The Prelude

Fantasia in C Minor
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The Ringing of the Tower Bell

Stand

The Introit

Judge Me, O God
Text: Ancient source
Setting: Healey Willan (1880-1968)

The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

The Entrance Hymn ELW 558

Lord, God, We Praise You

The Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

The Kyrie LBW pages 78-79

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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.

C: Amen

Sit

The First Lesson

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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." ⁷So 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, 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." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then 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.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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."

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Psalmody (read responsively)

Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

²**O Lord, hear my voice!**

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

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;
with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the Lord shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.**

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹If 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.

A: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Stand

The Verse

Deliver Me, O Lord, from Mine Enemies

Text: Traditional Gradual for the day

Setting: Paul Bunjes (1914-98)

The Gospel

John 11:1-45

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But 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." ⁵Accordingly,

though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The 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. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The 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." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

The Sermon

The True Passion of the Christ

Stand

The Hymn of the Day ELW 321

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

The Apostolic 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 Prayer of the Church

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Greet others near you in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

R: Peace be with you.

Sit

The Offering

The Anthem

*Ich bin die Auferstehung und das Leben
[I Am the Resurrection and the Life]*

Text: John 1:25-26; tune: *XVI Gesang*, Magdeburg, 1570
Setting: Gallus Dressler (1533-c.1584)

The Offertory **ELW hymn 884**

The Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

P. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

The Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

The Agnus Dei LBW hymn 103

Sit

The Communion

Communicants consume the elements right after receiving them; remain in place for the Blessing, and then return to their seats.

The Anthem

Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light
Text: Martin Behm, 1610;
Tune: Königsberg, 1602;
Setting: J. S. Bach

The Communion Blessing (After each table of communicants)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Stand

The Canticle

ELW, hymn 501

The Prayer

A: Let us pray: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord

C: Amen

The Benediction

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

C: Amen

The Recessional Hymn ELW 539

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

The Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

Abide, O Dearest Jesus
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

WORSHIP ENABLERS

- Rayfus Ferdinand.....Bell Ringer
- Meredith Nelson.....Usher
- Maridith Allen.....Usher
- Greg Ranft.....Usher
- Kelly Rinnan.....Usher
- Jeffrey Hokanson.....Verger
- Dorry Shaddock.....Organist
- Carroll Shaddock.....Choir Director
- Nick Bayer.....Crucifer
- Rebecca Oxley.....Acolyte

Jeffrey Hokanson.....Server
George Soutter.....Assisting Minister
The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....Presiding Minister

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....Pastor
Marty Ambrose.....Church Administrator
Charline R. Thompson.....Office Manager/Secretary
Allison Silk.....Nursery Attendant
Rayfus Ferdinand.....Custodian
Dorry Shaddock.....Interim Organist
Carroll Shaddock.....Director of Worship and Music

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First Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded in 1851, and played a vital role in the formation of Lutheranism in Texas. The church building is located at Holman and Caroline, across the street from Houston Community College, convenient to the Ensemble/HCC Metro-rail stop in the 3400 block of Main Street.



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