

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road,
Stroudsburg, PA

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

*“You will always have the
poor among you, but you
will not always
have me.”*



John 12:8, NIV

Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at www.chrighthamilton.org. Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that all are welcome at Christ Hamilton! Life is difficult enough and shouldn't be when you come to church. Regardless of how you got here, we are glad you did. If you don't know your neighbor please welcome them. **All are welcome here!** At Christ Hamilton we are an intentional community of faith, gathered in worship, united in fellowship and generous in our outreach.

The service: *Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.*

During the five Sundays in Lent we ask that instead of sponsoring altar flowers that you prayerfully consider donating to PATH (Pocono Area Transitional Housing) using the envelope in your bulletin or pew.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Minister: 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.

All: Amen

Minister: 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. . . . Most merciful God,

**All: 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**

Minister: 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.

All: Amen

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

v. 1-3



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

KYRIE

Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

Leader



Oče nebeský, Svoritel'u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.
1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

All



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

PRAYER

Minister: Let us pray. . . Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

READING

ISAIAH 43:16-21

Reader: A reading from Isaiah, the 43rd chapter:

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Spoken responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 126

Reader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

**All: Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great |things for them.”**

Reader: The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

**All: Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

Reader: Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

**All: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves**

READING

PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

Reader: A reading from Philippians, the 3rd chapter.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

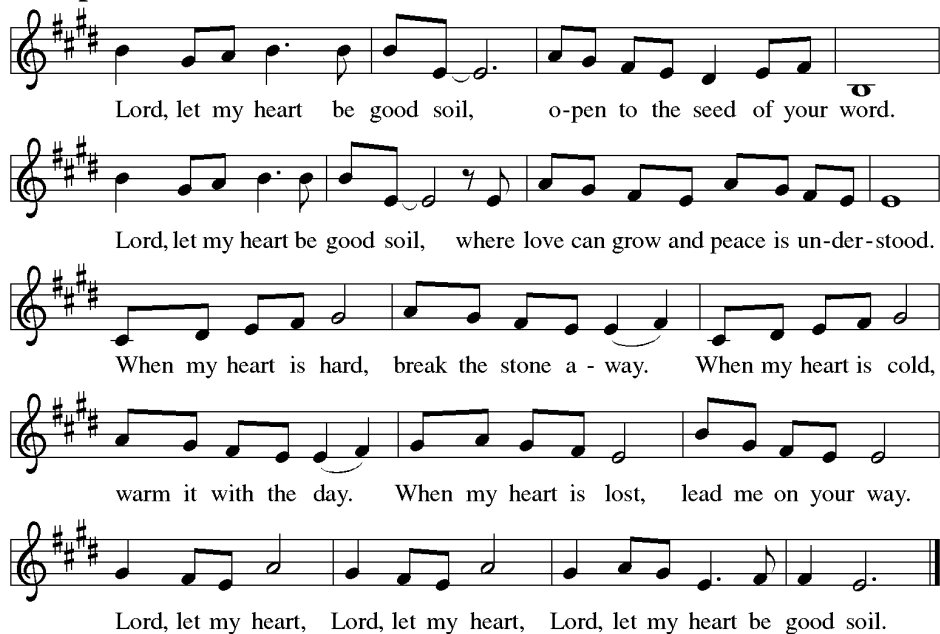
¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

1. SHUMUKH – \$1.29 MILLION/OUNCE
2. DKNY GOLDEN DELICIOUS – \$1 MILLION/OUNCE
3. CLIVE CHRISTIAN NO.1 IMPERIAL MAJESTY – \$12,722/OUNCE
4. BACCARAT LES LARMES SACREE DE THEBES – \$6,800/OUNCE
5. CHANEL GRAND EXTRAIT – \$4,200/OUNCE

Holy Woman, Graceful Giver



1 Ho - ly wom - an, grace - ful giv - er, proph - et,
2 Like the ves - sel, we are bro - ken; like the
3 In these jars is hid - den trea - sure, cost - ly
4 Ho - ly wom - an, cost - ly trea - sure, with the



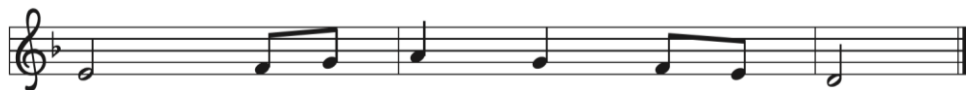
ser - vant, and be - liev - er, wom - an with the oint - ment
oint - ment, we are to - ken of God's lov - ing un - to
fra - grance, Christ - ly plea - sure, like the Christ, first from the
jar of al - a - bas - ter, shows the hid - den gift we



jar, rose up near the time ap - point - ed, broke the
death; like the wom - an, we are serv - ing; like the
dead, bro - ken for cre - a - tion's whole - ness, poured out
are; there - fore let us as Christ's ser - vants hold our



seal, Christ's head a - noint - ed for the com - ing fa - tal
scold - ers, ill - de - serv - ing such a rich, for - giv - ing
for its com - ing full - ness, Proph - et, Ser - vant, Hope, and
sis - ter in re - mem - brance, wom - an with the oint - ment



hour, for the com - ing fa - tal hour.
faith, such a rich, for - giv - ing faith.
Head, Proph - et, Ser - vant, Hope, and Head.
jar, wom - an with the oint - ment jar.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: ALABASTER JAR, Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960

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Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLE'S CREED

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: 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**

PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need especially May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

We pray for all churches in the Pocono Mission District. We especially lift up Zion, Broadheadsville, St. Paul, Smithfield, Holy Trinity, Dingmans Ferry, and St. John, Effort this day. Bless those as well who are in the midst of their planning for the Synod Assembly. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

All: Amen.

The Peace is shared with one another.

PEACE

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Please stand.

OFFERTORY

CREATE IN ME

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 to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . Merciful Father,

All: 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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: 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

Minister: Let us pray together with confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

All: 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

Communion



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

Please come forward by way of the center aisle, receive the bread from the pastor and move to the chalice. Return by way of the outside aisle as you return to your seat.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . We give you thanks, almighty
God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of
this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would
strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in
fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ
our Lord.

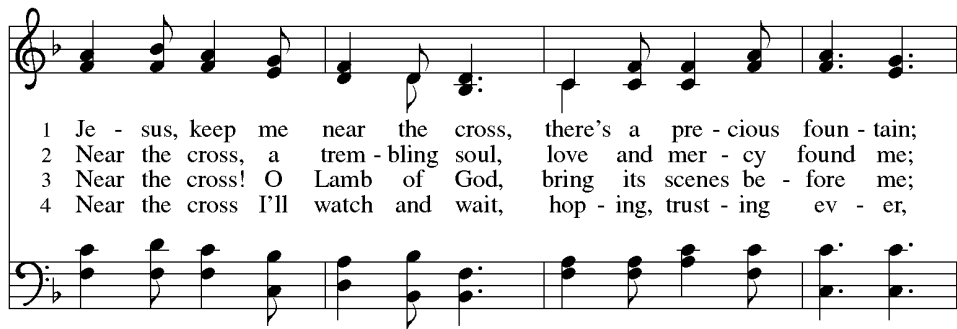
All: Amen.

BLESSING

Minister: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

All: Amen

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

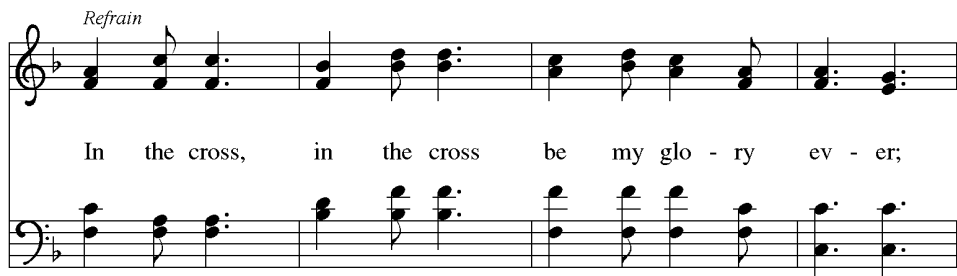


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister:	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Assisting Minister:	Janet Catina
Reader:	Gail Derrer
Organist:	Beth McElroy
Greeters:	Bonnie & Roger Wrazien, Danielle Ertle
Choir Director	Tassy Gilbert
Accompanist	Gail Derrer
Announcements	Amanda Balas, Office Administrator
Videographer:	Steve Metzgar and Anson Cassidy
Coffee Hour:	4/6: Sue Butz, Winnie Staples 4/13: Stephen Ministry 4/20: Easter

LARGE PRINT bulletins are now available, please ask an usher if you would like one.

Please keep the following in prayer: Steve M., recovering from knee replacement, Bev S., recovering from gallbladder surgery and Dick Houloose, recovering from a fall as well as all homebound members.

Prayer at the Rail - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer in front of the stage after the service for any concerns.

Homebound List—If you know of someone who needs to be added to our homebound list please have them, or a family member call the office. **Please also inform the office if you know of someone in the hospital!**

Dates for the Calendar

Wed. 4/9— Lenten soup & service @ 6:15pm

Sun. 4/13— Palm Sunday service at 10am

Thurs. 4/17— Maundy Thursday service 7pm in LH

Fri. 4/18— Good Friday service 7pm in LH

Sat. 4/19— Easter Egg Hunt 11am

Sun. 4/20— Easter Dawn service 6:30am LH parking lot

Easter Day service 10am in sanctuary

Dinner Out Group

April 16 (Wed) – 5:30 p.m. Mullally’s Clubhouse, Glenbrook Country Club

May 21 (Wed) – 5:30 pm – Sycamore Grill, Del. Water Gap

June 20 (Fri) – 5:30 pm – Thai Thani (rt 611 - Stroudsburg)

Bulletin Deadlines: The deadline for information being added to the bulletin is Wednesday noon. Bulletins are printed by 10 a.m. THURSDAY mornings. The office is CLOSED on Friday and Saturday. Please email all non-emergency questions or concerns.

Wednesday Lenten please join us for the last Lenten soup and service this Wednesday 4/9 at 6:15pm with the Holden Evening Prayer service immediately following.

Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 19th at 11am. Anyone who would like to help with this event can email Deb Lamson at ark2dir@ptd.net

Facing Death

Mary of Bethany recognizes Jesus' mission: he has come to die. Perceiving the new thing God is doing, she embraces his death and pours out her devotion to Jesus in an extravagant act. The prophet beseeches the Israelites to forget the old pattern of salvation—the dry way through the Red Sea. Now God will make a new way, a wet way, in a dry, barren, and death-filled place.

On this Sunday in Lent, salvation lies not behind us but before us, through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Mary's action in the face of death is bold. She anoints a corpse, and in so doing honors Jesus' vulnerability and his life. She models love for the other disciples and for us.

By honestly facing the reality of death, we are more fully able to live honoring our own vulnerability and the humanity of others. We live with gratitude. We are more able to love one another and God extravagantly. However, in our culture, mortality is often avoided. The stench of death is removed through chemicals, and deceased bodies are cosmetically enhanced to appear as life-like as possible.

Each day, we the baptized boldly face death, trusting that God has made a new way, a wet way, to travel from death to life. God in Christ has honored human vulnerability by becoming flesh and by laying down his own life. He is the new way through a dry, barren, and death-filled place. Because Christ Jesus has made them his own, the baptized walk wet through the desert places of this life, pouring out the whole of their lives, down to the very last hair, in extravagant love for God and for the people God has formed.