

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church March 26, 2023 8:30 & 10:30 Worship Rev. Karen Parsh

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PRELUDE:

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Please stand

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.

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.

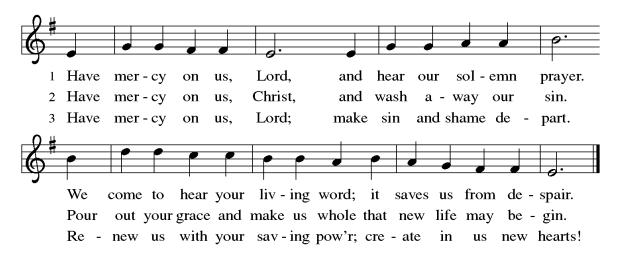
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 666 "What Wondrous Love"

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



PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The 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."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 130

8:30 Sung in Unison 10:30 Sung Responsively

Tone 9



¹Out ^I of the depths

I cry to | you, O LORD;

²O LORD, | hear my voice!

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

³If you were to keep watch I over sins,

O LORD, I who could stand?

⁴Yet with you | is forgiveness, in order that you | may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; I my soul waits; in your word I is my hope.

⁶My 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 ¹ steadfast love; with the LORD there is plen- ¹ teous redemption.
- ⁸For the LORD shall | redeem Israel from | all their sins.

SECOND READING: 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.

The word of the Lord, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Please stand



HOLY GOSPEL: John 11:1-45 (*Please be seated*)

The holy gospel according to St. John the 11th Chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now 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."

⁴⁵Many 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.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand

HYMN of DAY~ELW 333 "Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land"

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection for the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. A brief silence. You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Up lift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially the family and friends of Lew Penna, and Connie Burgert, or troubled by illness, especially, Pastor Karen, Carol and Bill, Eileen, Peggy, Beth, Denise, Ed & Jeanne, Don and Skip, Judy, Karri, Sandy, Trudy & Christian, Jo, Sally & Matt, Esther, John, Emily, Dick & Diana, Don & June, Norma, the Gresh Family, Nicole, Judi, Karen, Ruth, Don, Evelyn, Joyce, Jack & Marjorie, and Roger & Irene. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation especially Sheryl, Brian, Howard, Pastor Karen and all choir members and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

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

Please be seated

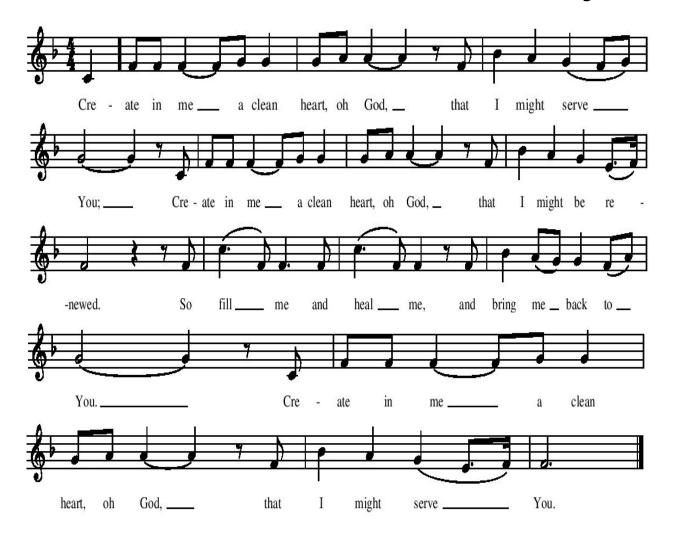
OFFERING ~ 10:30 Anthem "Why Do They Mock You, Jesus" Abiding Hope Choir

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ 8:30 & 10:30 "Create in Me" ~ MR Haugen



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

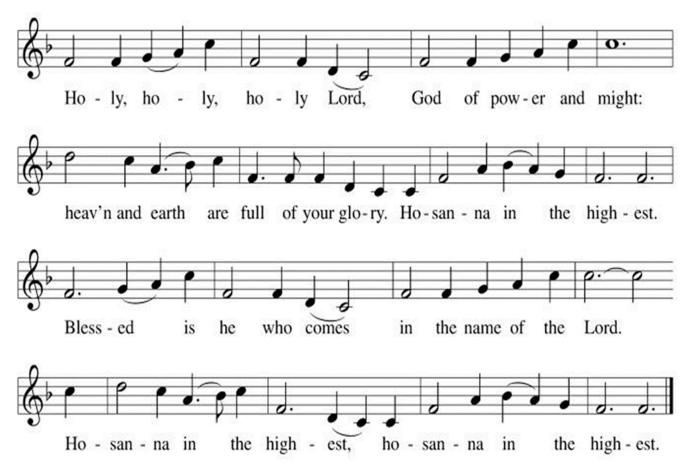
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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,

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

forever and ever. Amen.

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose prepoured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

LAMB of GOD



Please be seated.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Communion Hymns ~ ELW 485 "I am The Bread of Life" ELW 336 "Lamb of God"

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our + Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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.** *Please stand*

SENDING SONG ~ 8:30 ELW 758 "You Are the Way"

10:30 "Take My Life" (printed on pg. 13)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Take My Life



Postlude ∼

PARISH NOTES ~ March 26, 2023

Bible Study Today @ 9:30 Confirmation Classes at St Paul's 10:15 **Choir Practice today 11:45**

Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship at Abiding Hope

Wednesday, March 29 Soup Supper at 5:30 followed at 6:00 Lenten Worship Service.

Altar Candles are given to the Glory of God, In Memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch, from Carol Wunch

Please pray for: the family and friends of Lew Penna, and Connie Burgert, Pastor Karen, Eileen Baughman, Peggy Kaeberlein, Denise Miller, Don and Skip Kleckner, Beth, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Karri Pacileo, Sandy Pacileo, Trudy & Christian Mueller, Jo Critchfield, Esther Klakamp, Matt & Sally Zill, John Litzel, Don & June Morey, Diana & Dick Stoker, Emily Stoker and her sister, Roger & Irene Owens, Norma Squire, the Gresh family, Nicole Woomer, Karen Shick, Ruth Hinkson, Don Fuller, Judi Pacileo, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger.

Sunday, March 26th-this evening: The final 2023 Zoom Book Club is tonight @ 7:00p. The book for discussion: The Year of Living Biblically by AJ Jacobs. Contact Lon Jenkins at jenkinslon@aol.com to receive your Zoom invitation.

Easter Flock: At AHLC on Sat. April 1 from 1 to 3p. We are again partnering with New Hope and St Paul's to put on a wonderful, FREE, event for the whole community. Your donations of your time and/or funds are needed to help make this event another success. Event sponsorships are available. See Lon, Pastor or any Ministry Team member. Next Easter Flock meeting: Tues., March 28th @ 12:30p.

Palm Sunday play ~ April 2 at 9:30 Calling all young people from preschool and up! We have a need for actors/actresses to participate in this Palm Sunday. If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, etc. who might enjoy this opportunity, please contact Pastor Karen at the church or Connie Kerr Vogt at ckerrvogt@gmail.com as soon as possible in order plans for this dynamic performance to be completed. **Rehearsal on Sat. April 1st at 3PM.** We look forward to a grand procession for Palm Sunday!

\$ How Each Member Can Make a Difference for only "One Dollar"\$

As we all know a Dollar doesn't buy much, yet it can make a big difference when the **Kearsarge Food Pantry** is buying food to help feed those in need. With the cost of everything rising, our Food Pantry is seeing more families and struggling to keep up with the need. If each member would contribute a minimum of \$1 per week, the impact would enable **our** Food Pantry to purchase healthier food and touch hungry lives. Please consider joining this commitment of at least \$1 a week to help others.

Media Team Meeting: Monday, April 17, 11:00: Do you have an interest in technology? Join the AHLC Media Team to evangelize through our website, Facebook, email marketing, our sign messaging, video broadcasting, and more. Help us spread the Good News of AHLC.

Confirmation Classes is being held at St Paul's Lutheran each Sunday at 10:15.

Office Hours: Tuesday from 10am –12:30p the office will be open. Please leave a phone message and calls will be returned as soon as possible. For immediate pastoral assistance, call Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266.

<u>Altar Flowers:</u> Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly signup and request forms are on the table in narthex. Arrangements-**\$20.00 each.** Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

The ELCA parishes of Erie County will **celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday evening, May 18 at Luther Memorial**. Singers are invited to participate in leading worship for that service as part of a large choir accompanied by organ and orchestra leading the singing of hymns or a smaller choir singing one of the cantatas written by J. S. Bach for the Ascension. Please contact Luther Memorial's Cantor at WaltGaber@gmail.com or the Luther Memorial church office at 814.454.0106 to be included and for information on practice days and times.

Special thanks to all who participate and who cook soups for **our Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers and attend Lenten Worship**. It's a wonderful time of fellowship, and opportunity to get to know our New Hope friends.

Are you on Facebook? Be sure to "friend" Abiding Hope and when you see an AHLC post, please LIKE and SHARE the post and help promote events at our church.

KAFP Project Dignity: March item ~ Dish soap. Leave in the "cry room".

CURRENT FUND REPORT

February Income: \$ 8,404.05 Year to Date Income: \$ 18,296.05 February Expenses: \$10,874.35 Year to Date Expenses: \$ 22,111.81 February Difference: \$ -2,470.30 Year to date Difference: \$ -3,815.86

Year to Date Budget: \$21,879.30

Gospel Message ~ Coming and Going

There is a lot of coming and going in today's gospel. Mary and Martha send a messenger to Jesus with news that Lazarus is ill. Jesus and his disciples do not go right away, but eventually they come to Martha after Lazarus has died. We learn that many had come to console the sisters. Martha proclaims Jesus "the Messiah, the Son of God, is the one coming into the world" (John 11:27). She then goes to get Mary, who comes quickly to Jesus. Mary is weeping, and so are those who come with her. When Jesus asks where Lazarus is, they invite him to come and see. They all go to the tomb. With all of this coming and going, it is not surprising that Jesus tells Lazarus to come out and that Jesus commands others to unbind him so he can go. Lazarus emerging from the tomb is a remarkable moment, but just as remarkable are the connections of all of this story's coming and going with our daily lives. Our health comes and goes. Jobs come and go. People come into our lives and go. Kids go, and perhaps come back again. Sometimes we are the ones who come and go. The grief of loss and death comes and goes. Tears come and go. Hope can even come and go. Amid this movement, we come together in worship. We come to gather around the font and the table and hear again the stories of Jesus coming into the world, going to the cross, and coming again in the resurrection. We come together with our griefs and joys, our struggles and celebrations, all that binds us and sets us free. We come to gather, surrounded by God's grace. Having come, we will go in peace to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

3/26/2023	Worship Leaders	
5th Sunday in Lent	8:30AM	10:30AM
Videographer	X	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	Nancy Cunning
Lector/Prayers	Analee Cree	Judi Pacileo
Comm Assist/cups	Mary Randall	Michele Rion
Comm. Assist/wine	Lon Jenkins	Carol Whitbred
Communion tray	Lois Kuhns	Ed Whitbred
Presenter	Mary Randall	volunteer
Presenter	Analee Cree	Connie Kerr Vogt
Usher	Mike Paris	Andy Saska
Usher	volunteer	Dave Cunning
Counters	Andy Saska & Lois Kuhns	

Easter Flowers & KAFP Easter Donation Form You are invited to place Easter lilies on the altar for Easter Services or make an Easter donation to Kearsarge Area Food Pantry. Include the completed form (use additional forms as necessary) along with your payment in a marked envelope and return to the office before the Wed March 29th deadline. 6½" Easter Lily - \$8.50 ea. with foil ______ Total Cost: ______ Kearsarge Food Pantry Donation: \$_____ Please Print Clearly Given to the Glory of God: ____ In Memory of ___ In Honor of ___ In Celebration of: (check one) Given by: ______ Thank you!