

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls

March 29, 2020
5th Sunday in Lent

*This bulletin is for a home service.

- *Prepare to worship God with your body and spirit. Gather together with your family members at a place where it is appropriate for worshipping God.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The passing of the Peace is a time to briefly greet your family members with the peace of Christ. "Peace be with You!"

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Return, people of God, for rest and renewal; come to the source of life for new breath.

God has heard our voices and listened to us. God's mercy saves and preserves us.

Celebrate this time of worship and remembrance. Rejoice in the Spirit of God which dwells in you.

When the snares of death bring distress and anguish, God keeps our feet from stumbling.

Give thanks to God, who is gracious and righteous; walk with God in the land of the living.

We bring our doubts and fears, our work and worries to this time of reflection and refreshment. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** Sanctuary **TFWS 2164**
(You may choose another song as you prefer.)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

O God, we come to you from valleys where there are many anguish and suffering. Sometimes we have passed them by. Sometimes they are in us. Sometimes we have tried to breathe life from your Spirit's energizing power. Set a vision before us today

so that the people who are in suffering may hear your word, respond to your breath, and live in hope. Lead us, we pray, to that realm where people are no longer bound but know the freedom of resurrection to new life in Christ. Amen.

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 11:1-44
See Insert

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Is it Not the Time Yet?" **Pastor Jenny Lee**
(One of your family members may read my written sermon.)

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of broken dreams and empty tombs, you meet us when we feel empty and without strength or purpose; you are present in the midst of our hopelessness and despair. You greet us in times of fulfillment and joy; you are with us when life is going well. As we hear stories of your people who have had experiences similar to our own, grant that we may know your transforming presence as they did. Bring new life to us that we may walk as your people, affirming your gifts and celebrating your love. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Please prepare an offering, and send it to the church, or bring it to the church later when you come to the church next.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

We worship you, God of life, with all we place in these offerings. Even more, we want to devote our time to you, and all the talents you have entrusted to us. Accept us as a congregation presented for your use on the altar of life. Guide us be menders of broken relationships, bearers of your healing Spirit, proclaimers of your active and inclusive love. In Christ's name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*HYMN *I Know Whom I have Believed* UMH 714

*LORD'S PRAYER Unison

God bless you, and stay well!

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ONE Parish THREE Churches

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The United Methodist Church

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THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 11:1-44

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 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." 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus 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. 10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." 11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

28 When 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." 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The 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. 32 When 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." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 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." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 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." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 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."