

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**April 6, 2025**

Instead, You Could Have . . .



Not another book of the Bible talks about love the way John talks about love. Even if a person doesn't know another thing about this gospel, never went to vacation Bible school, sang a hymn, sat in a pew, or stared at a stained-glass window, chances are good they will perk up at familiar echoes of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world."

Love is leaking out of this gospel book like water from a hose with no gasket, and who knows where it all goes? "I love you, you should love me," Jesus says. And love one another too—colleagues and culprits, defamers and defenders, the near and the far, bullies, bandits, and bores. "Love." It is Jesus' nonnegotiable command. So you'd expect that the hangers-on, the stick-arounds, the learners and leaders and even the laggards-behind whose names and faces and brief bios show up in John's chapters would be specialists in the art of loving.

Some of those gospel characters were together one night in Bethany, a little village just over the hills from Jerusalem. A dinner (it was holiday time) was being hosted in the home of Jesus' friends Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. But the festive gathering was menaced. They were on edge in the intimacy of the room. Uneasiness stirred in the streets, rebels' causes brewed in shadows and braved daylight. Rumors and plots swirled as they do in troubled times—times that ignore commands, are deaf to pleas, and mislay impulses to love.

When love does not know what to do or how to act; when it struggles with itself and feels imperfect or too thin, unfinished and inadequate; when the campaigns and monuments and funds and meals and letters seem not enough . . . look at Mary. She leads the way by kneeling at the feet of love itself. There we find the path toward love.

**Presiding Minister:** Rev. Randy Marburger

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Wendy S. Farone, Vicar

**Assisting Minister:** Loran Bohman

**Lector:** Barbara Jo Cush

**Organist:** Drew Pogyor

**Altar Care:** Loran Bohman

**The Sanctuary Light:** is given to the Glory of God.

**The Columbarium Light:** is given by Barbara Jo Cush in memory of Mother, Kathryn B. Cush.

### Hymns for Sunday

**Entrance Hymn**      **ELW 522 As We Gather at the Table**

**Hymn of the day**      **ELW 583 Take My Life That I May Be**

**Communion Hymns** **ELW 466 In the Singing**  
**ELW 319 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days**

**Sending Hymn**      **ELW 833 Oh, That I had a Thousand Voices**

**Communion-** If you need assistance or are unable to come to the communion rail, you can either stand at the step or stay in your seat and Pastor will come to you. If you are unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine, receiving either one is acceptable.

**Membership-** There are many ways to be connected with our congregation. Everyone is welcome to participate in any and all congregation activities; and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your request for membership.

## **The last Lent Service on Wednesday is April 9th**

- Lenten Light Dinner 5:30-6:45 pm
- Lenten Service 7:00 pm

**Maundy Thursday Service, April 17, 7:00 pm**

**Good Friday Service, April 18, 7:00 pm**

**Easter Sunday, Service, April 20, 10:00 am**

**Spring Craft Show Saturday, April 5th from 9 am – 3 pm.**

**Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

## **Bible Storytelling News**

This Tuesday, April 8th, we will continue our study of St Luke's Gospel. Our focus will be Luke 7:1-17, "What Was Jesus Doing?" We will be in for a treat as Diane P. 's daughter, Jolene, will be providing the snack. Join us for prayer/stillness, God Sightings, and captivating holy dialogue.

Please note that BS will not meet the following Tuesday, April 15th due to Holy Week. Hope to see everybody, however, on Thursday, Friday and Easter Sunday.

**Apryle's office hours** –. As I'm sure you already know, I am retiring (again) and my last day in the office will be April 23<sup>rd</sup>. My office hours for the April will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9-1 through April 23. I have been blessed to be a part of Faith and will miss seeing you in my work role, but am sure our paths will cross again. Best wishes.

## Upcoming Commemorations

**Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists**

Sunday, April 6, 2025

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945**

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.