



seeking:

Can these
bones live?

March 29, 2023 + Lenten Midweek Worship

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold**.
Please leave your offering in the offering plate on the usher's stand in the Gathering Space.
We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!*

we **GATHER** here

Opening Liturgy — p. 1

Words of Welcome

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

Have you ever wondered, *can these bones live?*

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

So, come. Rest your weary bones.

Let us worship Holy God.

we **LISTEN** and **RESPOND**

Evening Psalm — p. 2

***Gospel Acclamation** — p. 3 (*use Lenten text*)

***Gospel** — John 11:1-45

Before the reading: The Gospel of John, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O God.

After the reading: The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, O Christ.

***Gospel Canticle** — p. 4

Sermon

It's the question we ask at the end of our rope,
when the storm is raging, when the monsters under the
bed have introduced themselves.

When everything around us seems to be on fire.

It's the question we ask when hope slips through like
sand in a bottle, when the mockingbirds stop singing,
when the news reporter leads with another mass
shooting.

It's the question we ask when the depression moves in,
making herself at home, making a mess of it all.

It's the question we ask
when we're not sure if Easter will come.

Will it be Lent forever?

Will the sun ever rise?

Will this hope lead to something?

Can these bones ever live?

*Affirmation of Faith

You are invited to share in this litany of affirmation:

We believe that God loves us—

God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.

We believe that God does not give up on us—

breathing new life into tired bones.

We believe that God returns to us—

always seeking us when we are lost.

We believe that God holds hope for us—

so we hold onto hope as well.

We believe, help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

*Prayers — p. 3

we DEPART to serve the world

*Blessing & Dismissal

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

*Sending Song — p. 5

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace. **Amen.**

Acknowledgements

Words for Worship (Words of Welcome, Poem, Affirmation of Faith, Blessing and Dismissal) used and/or adapted from “Seeking” by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed
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