



FIFTH SUNDAY
in
LENT

March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAYER
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Our Mission Statement
Lutheran Church of Prayer walks with others and teaches the
Word of God through relationships and personal example.

Welcome Friends & Guests!

We pray you will be blessed by our worship today. A welcome packet can be found at the Welcome Center Desk in our lobby. Please pick one up. Each family is asked to fill out an attendance card. Place the completed card in the offering plate. If you have a prayer request to be included in the service, please write your requests on the blue Prayer Requests sheet found in the pew rack and hand it directly to an Usher before worship begins.

A Time for Quiet Meditation

As you enter the sanctuary for worship you are encouraged to use this time for prayer and meditation to prepare your hearts to worship our Lord and to look over the worship bulletin. Visiting with friends can be done in the narthex area so others will not be disturbed. Thank you.

Offering

The offering is an act of worship for members and friends of Lutheran Church of Prayer, moved by God's love, to support the mission of the church. We do not want guests to feel obligated to participate. We want you to feel welcome and we truly wish to serve you! God bless you!

Standing

If at any time during the service it becomes uncomfortable for you to stand, please feel free to sit down, even if others are standing. God knows our strengths and understands our weaknesses too.

Organist, David Collins • Choir Director, David Ortiz
Pianist, David Collins • Handbell Director, Judy Houston
Praise Band Director, Tammy Poynor

Serving Us Today

Pastor	Pastor Dwayne Hendricks
Elder.....	Bryant Arnold
Ushers	Tim Hartnett & Richard Kuhn
Reader	Bonnie Grisso
Greeters	Mike & Carolyn Griggs
Altar Circle	Linda Hartnett & Barb Kralej

As We Gather

Lent is a time when God prepares His people to celebrate the Paschal Feast, the resurrection of Jesus, with sincerity and truth. In the Reading from Ezekiel 37, we see the power of the Word that transforms dry bones into living flesh with the breath of the Spirit. This same Spirit lives in us and will raise us at the Last Day, which is exactly what we hear from Paul in the Reading from Romans 8. The Spirit who raised Christ will also give life to us. Having received the Spirit in Baptism, we join with Martha in confessing boldly that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who comes to us today in His Word and Sacrament and will come again to call us out of our graves.

Call to Worship

Chimes

Prelude:

“Faithful God”

By I Am They

“Come Alive”, (Dry Bones)

By Lauren Daigle

Welcome

Song:

“Rejoice”

By Rend Collective & Kristyn Getty

Intro

Oohhhh ohh ohh ohh ohhhh ohhhh Oh, Ohh
Oohhhh ohh ohh ohh ohhhh ohhhh

Verse 1

Rejoice in the Lord now and al-ways
Sing it again, we rejoice
Delight in the love He has shown us
Gratefully lift up your voice
His gentleness among us
Will join our hearts with praise
We gather in His goodness
A family of grace

Chorus

With each breath He has given
Praise the Lord
In these times we live in
We will praise the Lord
Throughout every season
I am sure
We have every reason
To praise the Lord

Interlude

Oohhhh ohh ohh ohh ohhhh ohhhh Oh, Ohh

Verse 2

Rejoice and be anxious for nothing
Prayin' for all that you need
Come with a song of thanksgiving
Lay your requests at His feet
His peace will fall upon us
To guard our hearts and minds
In Christ who reigns eternal
The Shepherd of our lives

Chorus

With each breath He has given
Praise the Lord
In these times we live in
We will praise the Lord
Throughout every season
I am sure
We have every reason
To praise the Lord

Interlude

Oohhhh ohh ohh ohh ohhhh ohhhh Oh, we praise the Lord
Oohhhh ohh ohh ohh ohhhh ohhhh

Verse 3

Rejoice in the Lord now and always
Tell of the good He has done
Worship the Lord to remember
All of the joy yet to come
The hope that burns within us
The dark cannot destroy
With praise that's never-ending
We say again, rejoice

Chorus

With each breath He has given
Praise the Lord
In these times we live in
We will praise the Lord
Throughout every season
I am sure
We have every reason
To praise the Lord

Ending Interlude

Oohhhh ohh ohh ohh ohhhh ohhhh Oh, we praise the Lord
Oohhhh ohh ohh ohh ohhhh ohhhh Oh, to praise the Lord

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

P Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C **By God’s grace and peace, let us receive “the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.”**

Confession and Absolution *1 Thessalonians 5:23–24*

P Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

C **O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

P If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

Silent reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we cry to You from the depths of our sin. We were born into those depths and need Your Word to call us out of them. We have sinned against You with our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our inactions. We have lived according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. From the depths, we wait for You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, deliver our soul from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. 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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. You are precious in His sight because Christ is in you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Psalm:

Psalm 130; antiphon: v. 7

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD!

²O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

⁴But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.

⁸And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the rock upon whom our lives are built.

C **Help us rest securely in Your promises and find strength in Your mighty deliverance;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Song:

“I Am the Resurrection”

By Ray Repp

Chorus:

**I am the resurrection, and the life -
He who believes in me will never die.**

**I am the resurrection, and the life -
He who believes in me will live a new life.**

Ver. 1

I have come to bring the Truth;
I have come to bring you Life:
If you believe, then you shall live.

Chorus

I am the resurrection, and the life -
He who believes in me will never die.
I am the resurrection, and the life -
He who believes in me will live a new life.

Ver. 2

In my Word all men shall come to know -
It is love which makes the spirit grow:
If you believe, then you shall live.

Chorus

I am the resurrection, and the life -
He who believes in me will never die.
I am the resurrection, and the life -
He who believes in me will live a new life.

Ver.3

Keep in mind the things that I have said;
Remember me in the breaking of the bread:
If you believe, then you shall live.

Chorus 2x's

I am the resurrection, and the life -
He who believes in me will never die.
I am the resurrection, and the life -
He who believes in me will live a new life.

Old Testament Reading:

Ezekiel 37:1–14

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon 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 was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, 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, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’

¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading:

Romans 8:1–11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact 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, although 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 Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Song: "Rattle! (The Sound of Dry Bones)"

*By Zack Williams
Fourth Sunday Band*

Holy Gospel:

John 11:17–27, 38–53

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁷When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” 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. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” . . .

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for 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 lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with 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 he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,

⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Song: “How Deep the Father's Love for Us”
By Stuart Townend

Verse 1

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

Verse 2

Behold the Man upon the cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything:

no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.

But I will boast in Je - sus Christ:

His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart:

His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart:

His wounds have paid my ransom.

Sermon: “Through the Valley of Life” *Ezekiel 37*

Offering: “I Believe it (The Life of Jesus)”

*By David Leonard
Fourth Sunday Band*

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.

We rest securely in Your promises, gracious God, and come into Your holy presence with thanksgiving and gratitude in our hearts.

Every day, in each and every way, we see all that Your mighty hand has provided to give us everything that we are and everything we possess. Because we are completely dependent upon Your hand to guide us and provide for us, Lord, be our rock of refuge,

C to which we can always go.

P In Holy Baptism, You have anchored us in Your Word and united us with Christ Jesus. Your Spirit will never forsake Your own, for we rest securely in the blood and righteousness our Savior has given to us and to all who trust in Him. Enable Your Church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus until the day He comes again in all power and glory. Until that day when every knee shall bow before You, lead our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name. Lord, be our rock of refuge,

C to which we can always go.

P Without Your aid, O Lord, we fail. When we falter and fall, uplift us by Your grace. Be near to the downtrodden, the heart-broken, and the weary. Steady the knees that give way, reminding those with fearful hearts that You alone are the God who saves. Stretch out Your arm to be a shield and fortress for all who are in harm's way. Inspire us by the sacrifice of those who lay down their lives for our benefit.

Give courage to those who walk through times of temptation and testing, helping them to know You are the God who provides hope for all who seek You. Lord, be our rock of refuge,

C to which we can always go.

P Many among us are suffering and in great need, O Lord. We name before You those we know and love whose concerns are known to You, the One who knows all things. Answer their prayers and, according to Your good and gracious will, enable them to gratefully receive all You give. We pray for those who are in need within our Christian congregation and among our families and friends, [*including . . .*]. Lord, be our rock of refuge,

C to which we can always go.

P Built on the rock of Jesus and His mighty Word, we have hope in this world because of the certainty we have of life forever with You. Use honesty to disrupt us, hope to sculpt us, joy to construct us, peace to protect us, and faith to persist in us. Help us to see how awesome You are, O Lord! We know Your Word is faithful and true because You alone are the rock from which our lives have been hewn and in whom we rest securely. Into Your merciful care we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, ever trusting in Your grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to
you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you
peace.
C Amen.

Announcements

Song:

“My Redeemer Lives”

By Reuben Morgan

Verse

I know He rescued my soul,
His blood has covered my sin,
I believe, I believe.
My shame He's taken away,
my pain is healed in His name,
I believe, I believe.
I'll raise a banner.
My Lord has conquered the grave.

Chorus

My Redeemer lives; my Redeemer lives.
My Redeemer lives; my Redeemer lives.

Verse

I know He rescued my soul,
His blood has covered my sin,
I believe, I believe.
My shame He's taken away,
my pain is healed in His name,
I believe, I believe.
I'll raise a banner.
My Lord has conquered the grave.

Chorus (2Xs)

My Redeemer lives; my Redeemer lives.

My Redeemer lives; my Redeemer lives.

Bridge (FOURTH SUNDAY BAND ONLY)

You lift my burden; I'll rise with You.

I'm dancing on this mountaintop

to see Your kingdom come.

Chorus (All sing 2Xs)

My Redeemer lives; my Redeemer lives.

My Redeemer lives; my Redeemer lives.

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+ What We Believe +

God: is Triune, Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Three Persons, One Essence. He is the only true God: *Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:4*

Jesus: is true God, equal to the Father and Holy Spirit, the only Savior of mankind. *John 5:23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 20:28*

Sin: all mankind is wicked; by nature the human race is spiritually blind, dead, broken in heart/mind, and in need of restoration with God and each other. God's wrath abides on all. *Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23, 7:15, 18; Mark 7:20-23; John 3:36.*

Justification: Sin and God's wrath against it has been dealt with by God through the death of God the Son on the cross. All have salvation through the blood of Jesus where our Father no longer holds our wickedness and sin against us but declares us righteous. We have peace again with God through faith in Jesus. This good news gives believers hope, peace, joy, and love to live as Christians. *Romans 5:1-10; John 3:16, 36; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:1-2; Corinthians 5:18-21.*

Conversion: to faith in the Savior is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (spoken, written, and sacramental). In the message of the cross God gathers His family. *Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23; John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:3.*

Holy Baptism: is a gracious work of the Holy Spirit Who creates faith, washes away sins, and connects us to Jesus and His body the church. *John 3:5-6; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13.*

The Holy Spirit's Work: Converted through faith in Jesus our human nature still threatens our unity with God and each other. Reconciliation, that is repentance and faith, is the daily rhythm of believers. Guilt and sorrow are promptings of the Holy Spirit for us to speak with God confessing thoughts, words, and actions asking Him for forgiveness in Jesus' name. *Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 10:19-25.*

The Lord's Supper: or Holy Communion is Christ's True Body and Blood, where He is really present in the bread and wine to assure us of forgiveness. We gather to receive Jesus often because we daily sin much and are in constant need of His power to live the Christian life of faith, hope, and love/charity. *John 6:53-59; 15:5; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16.*

Scripture: is inspired by God, without error and is our solid guide to life. *John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16.*

Creation: happened according to Genesis 1-2. Evolution is unscriptural, unscientific, and unnecessary. *Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6.*

2nd Coming: of Jesus will be sudden/unexpected. *2 Peter 3:10; Mark 13:32; Matthew 24.* We are living in the New Testament era where we rule with Jesus in the activity of sharing His message of love. *1 Corinthians 15:23-26; Ephesians 2:1-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Revelation 20:4-6*