

# Abiding Presence Lutheran Church and Preschool



**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday 9:30am, March 22, 2026**

**Monday, 7:30pm, March 23, 2026**

**Abiding Presence Church and Preschool**

**Rt. 25A and Sunken Meadow Road**

**Fort Salonga, New York 11768**

**(631) 269-6454**

The People of God, Ministers

The Reverend Robert Schoepflin, Pastor

The Reverend Toby Tobias, Pastoral Associate

Ms. Kathy Pucci, Deacon

Mr. Gavin Schwen, Deacon

Mr. Brian Forberg, Deacon

Dr. Thomas Zatorski, Director of Music

Ms. Lisa Pecchio, Soloist

Dcn. Kathy Pucci, Ms. Jean Forberg, Dcn. Brian Forberg, Ms. Kathy Smith, Mr. Jim Meyer, Assisting

Mr. Paul Farber, Ms. Diana Bellino, Ushers

Mr. Aiden Dallacqua, Acolyte Monday Evening

Ms. Danica Herfel, Usher Monday Evening

Ms. Doris Meyer, Ms. Jessica DiSalvio, Ms. Betty Bose, Readers

Ms. Janice Norton, Altar Guild

Mr. Tristan Minton, Video Production

Ms. Marialaina Sheehan, Preschool Director



**Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America**

**Welcome to Worship!**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 22, 2026**  
**9:30am**  
**Abiding Presence Church and Preschool**

**INTRODUCTION**

*In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.*

**PRELUDE**

***“O Mensch beweine deine Sünde groß”***

J.S. Bach

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

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*Please stand as you are able*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN 886 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

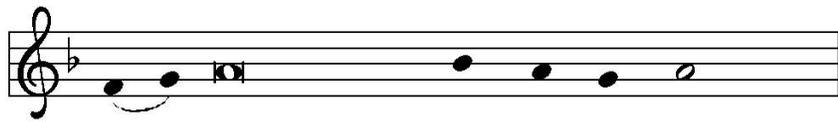
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## GREETING

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



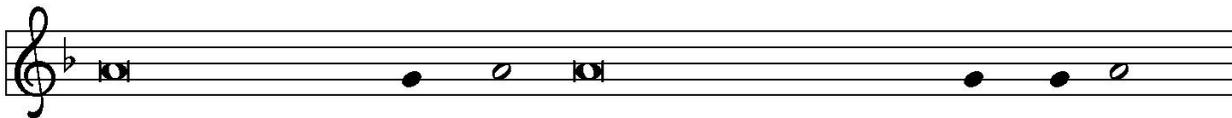
Lord, have mer - cy.



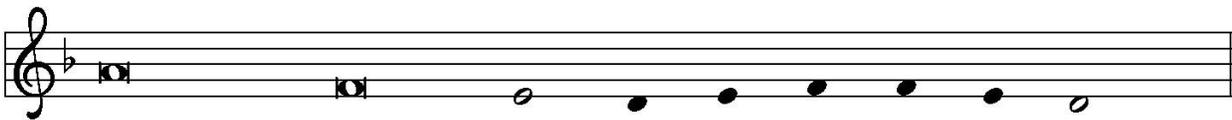
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



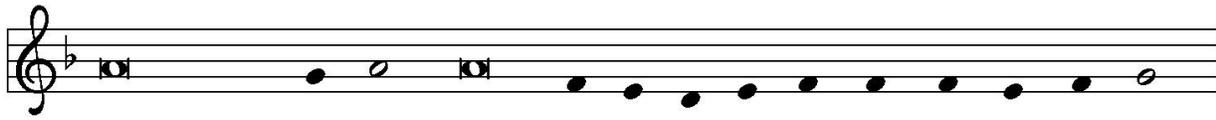
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



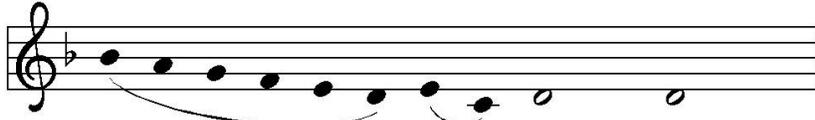
Lord, have mer - cy.



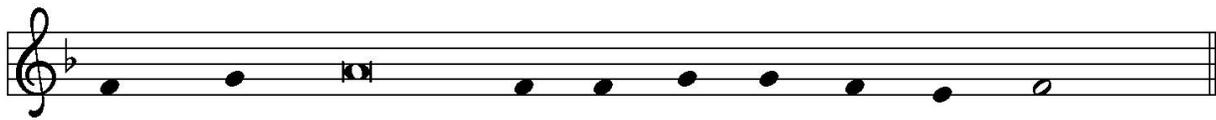
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together:

**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**

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

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*Please sit*

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."*

### **A Reading from Ezekiel**

<sup>1</sup> The 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. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I 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."

<sup>7</sup> So 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. <sup>8</sup> I 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. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then 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.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy 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. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I 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.”

**Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. Congregation/. Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 130**

**(Cantor sings verses. All sing response.)**

**Response**



Psalm 130:5

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

<sup>2</sup> O Lord, hear my voice!

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

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> Yet with you is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared. **R**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;  
with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup> For the Lord shall redeem Israel  
from all their sins. **R**

## **Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11**

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

### **A Reading from Romans**

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For 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, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But 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. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. Congregation/. Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*

### **GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL 769 (st. 1)**

***“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”***

***If you but trust in God to guide you  
with gentle hand through all your ways,  
you'll find that God is there beside you  
when crosses come, in trying days.  
Trust then in God's unchanging love;  
build on the rock that will not move.***

## **Gospel: John 11:1-45**

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

### **The Holy Gospel according to John Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

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

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the people had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their

brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." <sup>28</sup> 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." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The people 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. <sup>32</sup> 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." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the people who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the people said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> 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." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> 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." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> 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.”

<sup>45</sup> Many of the people, 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.**

## GOSPEL RECESSIONAL 769 (st. 4)

***“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”***

***Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,  
offer your service faithfully.***

***Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,  
you'll find this promise true to be.***

***This is our confidence indeed:  
God never fails in time of need.***

*Please sit*

## REFLECTION

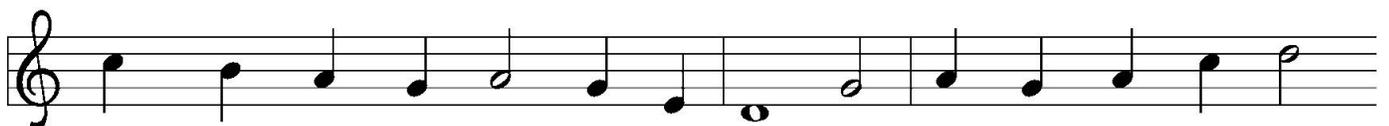
*Please stand as you are able*

## HYMN 666

***“What Wondrous Love Is This”***



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## 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 of the dead,**

**and the + life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Response: “Your mercy is great.”)**

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs, responding “your mercy is great.”

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, especially in the Middle East,

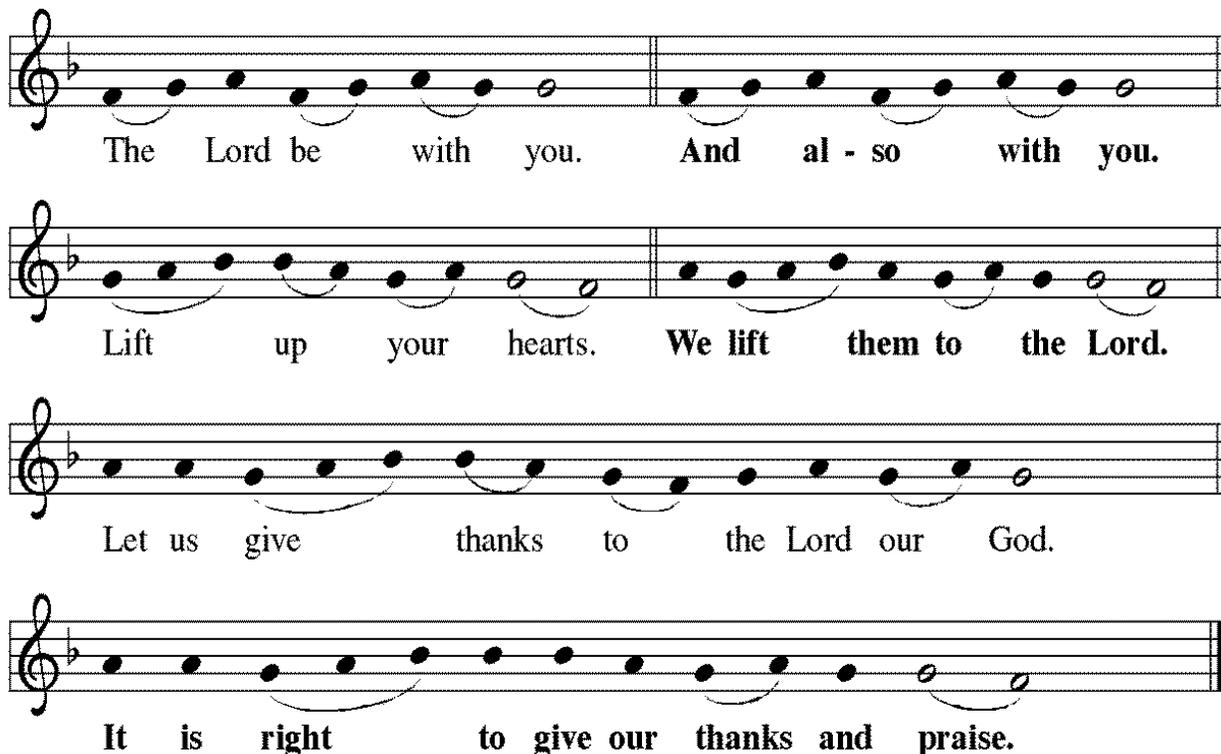


*Christ, yourself for me once giving  
to the darkest depths of woe:  
through your suff'ring, death, and merit  
life eternal I inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
dearest Jesus, unto you.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The image shows four lines of musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving. Each line consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.", "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.", "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.", and "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a steady rhythm.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

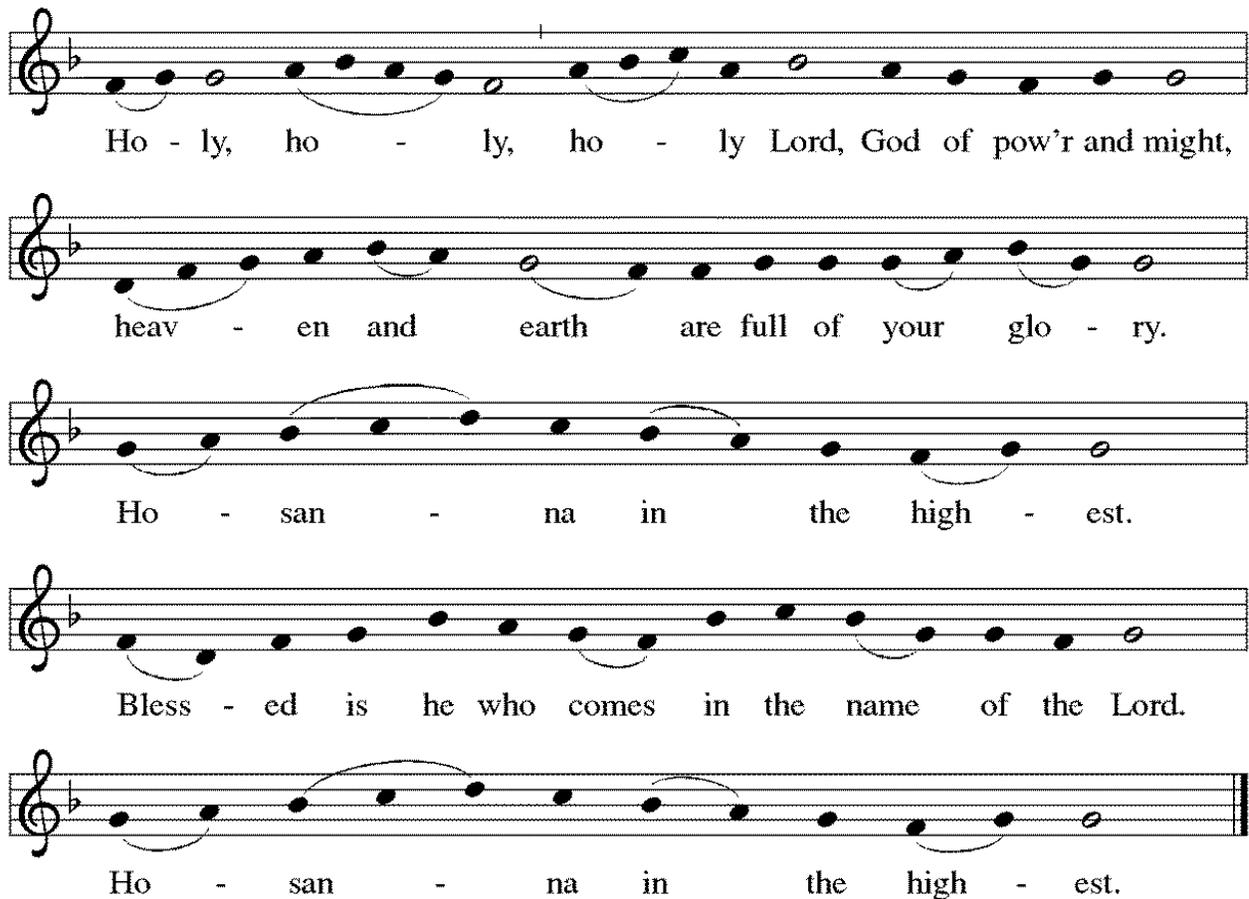
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

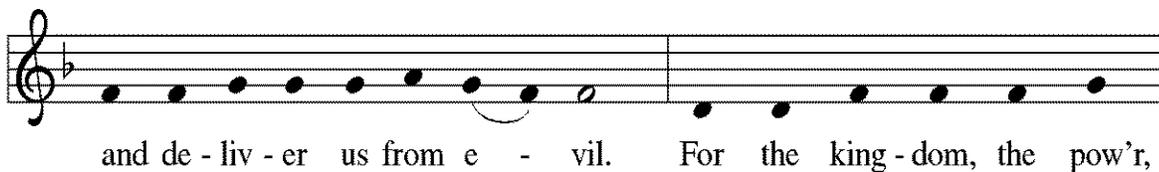
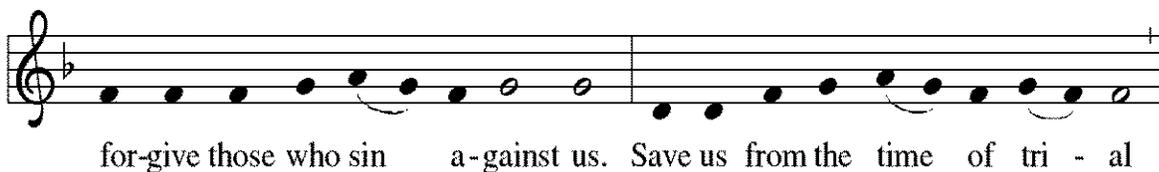
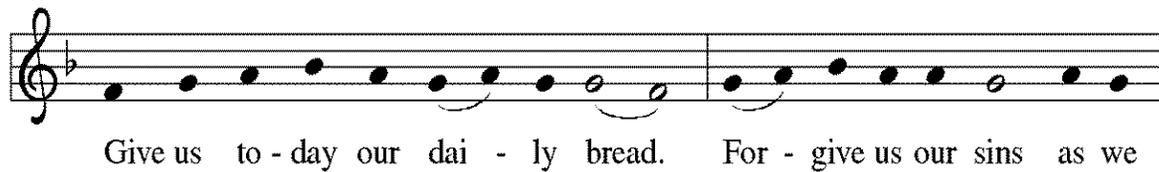
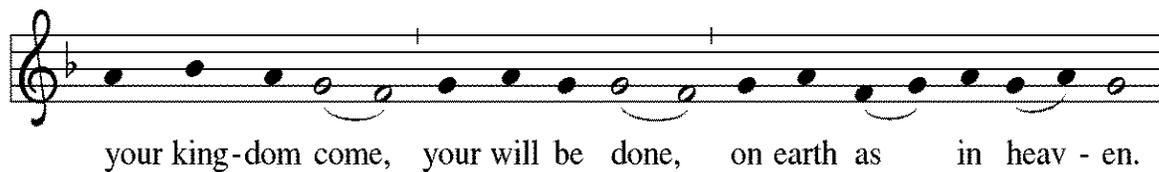
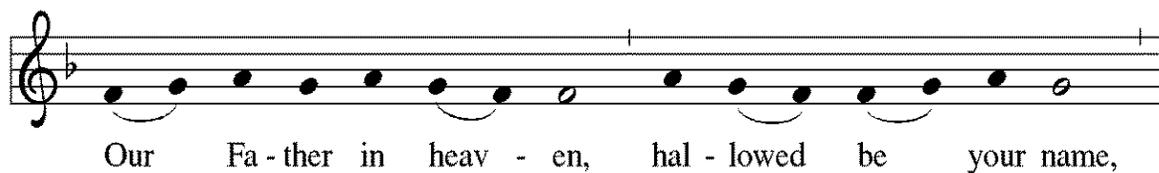
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With Blessed Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, Peter the Apostle,  
Mary Magdalene, the first to see the Risen Lord, and  
your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER





and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to come to his Supper.

**O Lord, we are not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and we shall be healed.**

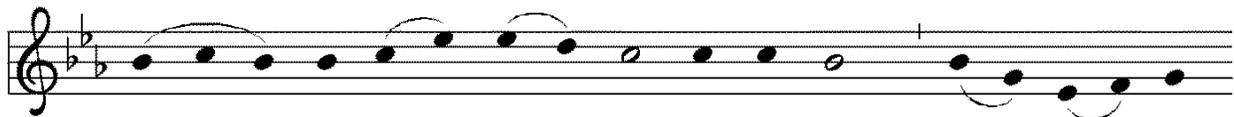
## ANGUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy



on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

*Please sit*

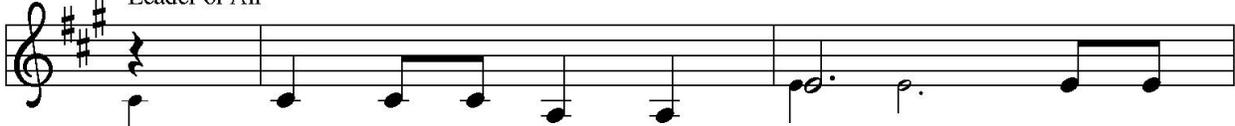
## THE DISTRIBUTION

*All who believe that along with the bread and wine we receive the true Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to the Lord's table to receive the*

*Sacrament. The Sacrament will be distributed in one or two continuous lines at the main aisle. The bread is received in the hand and the communicant then proceeds to a gold chalice for intinction or to a crystal chalice to drink from the common cup, or if so desired, the communicant may receive only the bread. Please let your Communion Minister know if you wish to receive a gluten free wafer. Please follow the guidance of the ushers.*

## COMMUNION HYMN 485 "I Am the Bread of Life"

Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
 3 "Un - less . . . . . you . . . . . eat of the  
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . . . .  
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . . . I be - lieve that . . . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -  
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . . . and if you  
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . . . and . . . . .  
 I . . . . . am the life. . . . . If you be -  
 you . . . . . are the Christ, . . . . . the . . . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
 eat . . . . . of this bread, you shall . . live for -  
 drink . . . . . of his blood, and drink . . . . . of his  
 lieve . . . . . in . . . . . me, e - ven . . though you  
 Son . . . . . of . . . . . God, who . . . . . have . . . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
 ev - er, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
 die, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 come in - to . . . . . the . . . . . world. . . . .

*Refrain*  
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6  
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM  
 Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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*Please stand as you are able*

## BLESSING

### POST COMMUNION HYMN 811 *“On My Heart, Imprint Your Image”*

On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,  
 that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.  
 Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun-da-tion, all my glo-ry and sal-va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.  
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

---

**SENDING** – God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you his peace, In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN 333

## "Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land"

*Refrain - All*

Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a  
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a  
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

*Leader or All*

1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a  
2 When Je - sus was on earth, . . . . . the . .  
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .

mum - bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -  
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -  
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

*Refrain*

- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.  
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.  
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

### DISMISSAL

Gathered by Christ, Growing in Faith, Sent to serve.

**All are welcome!**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

## "Da Jesus an dem Kreuz stund"

Samuel Scheidt

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**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE** burns this week signifying the Presence of God among His people.

**Daily Bible Readings for Year A (March 22 – March 29)**  
**From *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP***

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

Sun 3/22	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	
Mon 3/23	Psalm 143 1 Kings 17:17-24 Acts 20:7-12	
Tues 3/24	Psalm 143 2 Kings 4:18-37 Ephesians 2:1-10	
Wed 3/25	Psalm 143 Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41 Matthew 22:23-33	<i>Annunciation of Our Lord</i> Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 45 Hebrews 10:4-10
Thurs 3/26	Psalm 31:9-16 1 Samuel 16:11-13 Philippians 1:1-11	Luke 1:26-38
Fri 3/27	Psalm 31:9-16 Job 13:13-19 Philippians 1:21-30	
Sat 3/28	Psalm 31:9-16 Lamentations 3:55-66 Mark 10:32-34	
Sun 3/29	<i>Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</i> Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14—27:66	

**Monday, March 23, 2026**

**7:30 pm**

## **PRELUDE**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN 886 *“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,<br>O fallen human race!<br>Look and be saved through faith alone,<br>be justified by grace! | 6 To God all glory, praise, and love<br>be now and ever giv'n<br>by saints below and saints above,<br>the church in earth and heav'n. |
|---|---|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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## GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

**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.**

### **Gospel: John 11:1-45**

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life. Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

The Holy Gospel according to John  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the religious leaders were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been

speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

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

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

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and

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

<sup>45</sup> Many of the people, 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 sit*

## **REFLECTION**

*Please stand as you are able*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Response: "Your mercy is great.")**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs, responding "your mercy is great."

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts *pause for names*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

OFFERING

**NO OFFERING ENVELOPE?  
SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONTRIBUTE**



OFFERING HYMN 339 (st.1)

***“Christ the Life of All the Living”***

***Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Christ, yourself for me once giving  
to the darkest depths of woe:  
through your suff'ring, death, and merit***

*life eternal I inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
dearest Jesus, unto you.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
**your steadfast love embraces all creation.**  
**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
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.  
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 Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of  
your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he (+) who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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**

**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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to come to his Supper.  
**O Lord, we are not worthy to receive you, but only say the  
word and we shall be healed.**

## AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

***Gluten-free wafers are available. When you come forward, please let your  
Communion Minister know if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.***

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine  
upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor,  
and give you his peace, In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN 333

### *“Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land”*

*Refrain – All*



Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a  
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a  
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

*Leader or All*



- |   |           |          |     |            |                  |           |         |   |
|---|-----------|----------|-----|------------|------------------|-----------|---------|---|
| 1 | No        | one      | can | do         | like             | Je - sus, | not     | a |
| 2 | When      | Je - sus | was | on         | earth, . . . . . |           | the . . |   |
| 3 | Yon - der | comes    | my  | Sav - ior, |                  |           | him . . |   |



mum-bling word he said; he went walk-ing down to Laz-  
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird-  
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -



*Refrain*

- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.  
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.  
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

## SENDING

A: Gathered by Christ, Growing in Faith, Sent to serve

**C: All are welcome!**

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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Sun 3/22	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	
Mon 3/23	Psalm 143 1 Kings 17:17-24 Acts 20:7-12	
Tues 3/24	Psalm 143 2 Kings 4:18-37 Ephesians 2:1-10	
Wed 3/25	Psalm 143 Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41 Matthew 22:23-33	<i>Annunciation of Our Lord</i> Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 45 Hebrews 10:4-10
Thurs 3/26	Psalm 31:9-16 1 Samuel 16:11-13 Philippians 1:1-11	Luke 1:26-38
Fri 3/27	Psalm 31:9-16 Job 13:13-19 Philippians 1:21-30	
Sat 3/28	Psalm 31:9-16 Lamentations 3:55-66 Mark 10:32-34	
Sun 3/29	<i>Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</i> Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14—27:66	

