



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 22, 2026

PRELUDE

Christ Is the Life of All the Living (Johann Krebs)

WELCOME

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C **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.

P 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.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd (ACS 954, 1, 3, & 4)

1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.

You, Lord, are both prince and slave.

**You, peacemaker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.**

You, the everlasting instant;

you, whom we both scorn and crave.

**3 You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.**

**You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.**

You, the everlasting instant;

you, who are our pilgrim guide.

4 Worthy is our earthly Jesus!

Worthy is our cosmic Christ!

**Worthy your defeat and vict'ry;
worthy still your peace and strife.**

You, the everlasting instant;

you, who are our death and life.

GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Cantor: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the...

Congregation: Refrain



Cantor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the...*Refrain*

Cantor: For the people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the..*Refrain*

Cantor: Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Congregation:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C 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.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The 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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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." ⁷So 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, 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.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹ 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.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy 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. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ 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.”

R Word of God. Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 130

Refrain (Sing after cantor introduction and at R)



I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope.

Verses (sing the bolded verses)



¹ Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

² **O Lord, hear my voice!**

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

³ If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared. R

⁵ I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch¹ for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is¹ steadfast love;
with the Lord there is plen-¹teous redemption.

⁸ **For the Lord shall¹ redeem Israel
from¹ all their sins. R**

KIDS' MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Return to God with all your heart,
The Source of grace and mercy,
Come, seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

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

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

¹ 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." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Andrew Kitzing

HYMN OF THE DAY

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (ELW 334, 1-3, & Lent 4)

1 **Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry,**

still you rise with ev'ry morn,
still you rise with ev'ry morn.

2 We remember truth once spoken,
love passed on through act and word;
ev'ry person lost and broken
wears the body of our Lord,
wears the body of our Lord.

3 Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright.

APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

P Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

After each petition, respond with, "Your mercy is great."

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Recent concerns: Beth Strasheim, Ruby Augustine, Linda Hinkle, Carol Reckmeyer, Bob Wessels, and Nyakhan Douth. *Those with ongoing concerns:* Marge Wessels, Pastor Bill Peterson, Mary Brass, Vern Westberg, and Michael Dalton. *Those who are part of our homebound community:* Sylvia Kempf, M. Joyce Hansen, Cindy Schuster, Betty Miller, Jeanette Metteer, Dennis Schuster, Rod Price, De Hansen, and Margrett Wehland.

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

C **Amen.**

PEACE OF CHRIST IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MUSIC OFFERING

What Wondrous Love Is This (arr. Patti Drennan)
Adult Choir

Musical Offering response:

P To God be the glory.

C **Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

**On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, king of grace,
That life's troubles nor its pleasures
Ever may your work erase.
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
All my glory and salvation!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C 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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed... *(here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord..
Hosanna, in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P We pray in confidence in the words Jesus gave us:

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P This is the Table of the Lord;
Come, not because you are strong but because you are weak.
Come, not because of any goodness of your own but because you need mercy and help.
Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.
Come, because he loves you and gave himself for you.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, you take away our sin.
have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION MUSIC

Hear My Prayer (Antonin Dvorak)
David Pitts, vocal

COMMUNION HYMNS

Christ, the Life of All the Living (ELW 339)

- 1** 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.

- 2** You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,

fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.

- 3 Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.

Restore in Us, O God (ELW 328)

- 1 Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.
- 2 O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.
- 4 Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C **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, help us be Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (ELW 803)

- 1 **When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

- 2 **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

- 3 **See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

4 **Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Christ, Lamb of God (Johann Sebastian Bach)

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger
Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing
Cantor: David Pitts
Live Streaming: Kathleen Simley

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