



THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 22, 2026



Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Jesus Wept! Those Tears are Over *Text - John R MacDuff text revisions and tune - John Perovich*

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered. When we draw near to God, He draws near to us. Therefore, let us draw near to our loving God to confess our sins knowing that,
- C** **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- C** **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**

- P** Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who honor Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does our God remove our transgressions from us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** Amen.

Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

Service of the Word

Gathering Hymn: LSB 902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;
Our hearts in true devotion bow.
Your Spirit send with light divine,
And let Your truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing Your praise
In endless hymns through all our days.
Increase our faith and light our minds;
And set us free from doubt that blinds.

Then shall we join the hosts that cry,
“O holy, holy Lord Most High!”
And in the light of that blest place
We then shall see You face to face.

All glory to the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity!

Text: Lutherisch Hand-Büchlein, 1648, Altenburg; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
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Kyrie

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- L** Let us pray.
Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

Lenten Litany

- L** In your passion, O Lord, you fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy of old:
C **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;**
L Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
C **So he did not open his mouth.**
L By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
C **For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.**
L You persevered through your passion, O Lord. You did not become angry or fight back. You let the will of the Father be done for the salvation of all.
C **Help us to persevere in hard times, O Lord, drawing strength from you.**
L When the soldiers mocked you and put a purple robe on your scarred back and put a crown of thorns on your head, you kept quiet.
C **Because you knew you really were a king, the king of heaven and earth.**
L When bystanders told you to come down from the cross, you stayed where you were.
C **Because you knew that it was for this reason that you were born into this world.**
L When your final breath drew near, you said, "It is finished,"
C **Because you knew that your mission on earth had been completed.**
L In our lives, help us to look to you as we persevere.
C **In all we do, you give us strength.**

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.
When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me. Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

Children's Message

Old Testament

Ezekiel 37:1-14

- A** The Old Testament reading is from the thirty-seventh chapter of the book of Ezekiel.

¹ 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. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ 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." ⁷ 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. 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.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 130

- L** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
C **Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**
L If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
C **But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**
L I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
C **my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.**
L O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.
C **It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**
L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Epistle

Romans 8:1–11

- A** The Epistle reading is from the eighth chapter of the book of Romans.

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For 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 to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For 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. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ 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, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual for Lent

- L** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
C **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**
L who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
C **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Verse

- C** **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**
P [Jesus said,] "I am the resurrection and the life."
C **Whoever believes in me will live, even if they die."**

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

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

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."

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. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰ You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." ⁵¹ He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. ⁵³ So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: WOV 702 I Am the Bread of Life

"I am the Bread of life,
You who come to me shall not hunger,
And who believe in me shall not thirst,
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

"And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day."

"The bread that I will give
Is my flesh for the life of the world,
And if you eat of this bread,
You shall live forever, you shall live forever."

"Unless you eat
Of the flesh of the Son of Man
And drink of his blood,
And drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you."

"I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
Even though you die, you shall live forever."

Yes, Lord, I believe
That you are the Christ,
The Son of God,
Who has come into the world.

Text: S. Suzanne Toolan, SM
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Apostles' Creed

☩ 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.

Prayer of the Church

- L** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** O Lord, our God, take from us the sin that we commit in our lives. And give to us new hearts that love and serve you, and the people around us. As we walk with Jesus to the cross, enable us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow you. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L** Lord, You raised Your Son and sent Your Spirit. Sustain us while we await Christ's attention to our present needs. Give strength to our prayers, heal our weaknesses and restore all our losses. Give us faith throughout our days in Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life. Grant us joy and zeal for living as your disciples who join you in your work in this place. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord of hosts, breathe Your life into Your Church, that she may stand by Your strength and live according to Your Word. Bless and send your people of every era to proclaim Your Word and to bring life to the downtrodden, the faithless, the fearful and the outcast. We also pray for our partners in ministry in this community, for Gathering Lambs, Kent Bible Church, Luther Towers, and Interfaith Housing Alliance for the Poor, bless them and the good work they do in our community. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L** Heavenly Father, You have visited Your creation in Your Son. Grant that our homes would always receive Him and that the households of this congregation would rejoice to hear His promises, steadfastly believing them and always living in their light. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord of all, You are the true source of life, which You give through the power of Your Spirit. Humble those who are given authority over the lives of our people, that they would discharge this duty with humility and honor in accord with Your will. Allow justice, mercy, peace, and compassion to grow and increase in us, among us, and through us. Heal our world from the evils of injustice, prejudice, inequality, and hatred. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L** O Lord, you always hear our prayers on behalf of the ones You love are ill and need Your holy care [*especially we lift up to you this morning those we love, who need your healing and care, whom we name before you now out loud or in our hearts_____*]. Make haste to help them. Spare their lives. On the Last Day, call them from their graves and unite them to You and all Your saints. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- P** Holy Father, in Baptism You have given the new birth of water and the Spirit. Make Your children strong in Your Spirit, that we may shun the works of the flesh and live in this world in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L** Serving God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from sin and death. As He visits us this day with His body and blood under the bread and wine, give us penitent hearts that humbly and joyfully welcome His coming and rejoice in His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Work through your means of grace to strengthen our faith and to increase our love and service to You, to one another, and to our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- P** All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

Offering

- G** Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,
"Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."
Time to share our gifts and say,
"Thank you Lord for each new day."

Offertory Prayer

- L** Merciful Lord, You gave up Your Son for us so that we would have life with You forever. As we journey through this Lenten season toward the cross open our eyes to see the greatness of Your love for us. Grant that Your love for us would move us to love others in word and action. Accept these offerings that we bring before You with thanksgiving and gratitude for all of Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them for Your glory and to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name, we pray,
- C** Amen

Offertory

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- 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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Full)

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Lord's Prayer

P God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Communion Distribution

Distribution Hymn: LSB 641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

You satisfy the hungry heart
With gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
The bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
They know and heed his voice;
So when You call Your fam'ly, Lord,
We follow and rejoice. Refrain

With joyful lips we sing to You
Our praise and gratitude
That You should count us worthy, Lord,
To share this heav'nly food. Refrain

Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
Our oneness in the Lord? Refrain

The myst'ry of Your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell. Refrain

You give Yourself to us, O Lord;
Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in Your name
In truth and charity. Refrain

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97

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Distribution Hymn: LSB 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
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The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- G** Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

- G** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen

Benedicamus

- L** The Lord be with you.
G And also with you.
- L** Bless we the Lord.
G Thanks be to God.
- L** As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service.
We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.
G Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.
- L** We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.
G Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.
- L** We have received the gifts of God given in Holy Communion.
G As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.
- L** As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and who engage in service.
G We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.
- P** As you go, receive the blessing of our God:

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.
- G** Amen.

Sending Hymn: LSB 921 On What Has Now Been Sown

On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
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