

March 22, 2026 8:00am

Fifth Sunday in Lent

## WELCOME AND INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won" LSB 490, vv. 1-3, 5

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!  
Death no longer can appall me;  
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!  
From the grave will Christ recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died,  
Hence will I, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide,  
Praise to Him and glory giving.  
All I need God will dispense;  
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne  
High above all things is given.  
I shall go where He is gone,  
Live and reign with Him in heaven.  
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!  
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death  
But the gate of life immortal;  
This shall calm my trembling breath  
When I pass its gloomy portal.  
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:  
Jesus is my confidence!

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## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 130:1-4

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

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

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

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

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

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we cry to You from the depths of our sin. We were born into those depths and need Your Word to call us out of them. We have sinned against You with our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our inactions. We have lived according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. From the depths, we wait for You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, deliver our soul from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

## **KYRIE**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** 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.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**G** A - men.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, who rules over and preserves us to life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

**Romans 8:1-11**

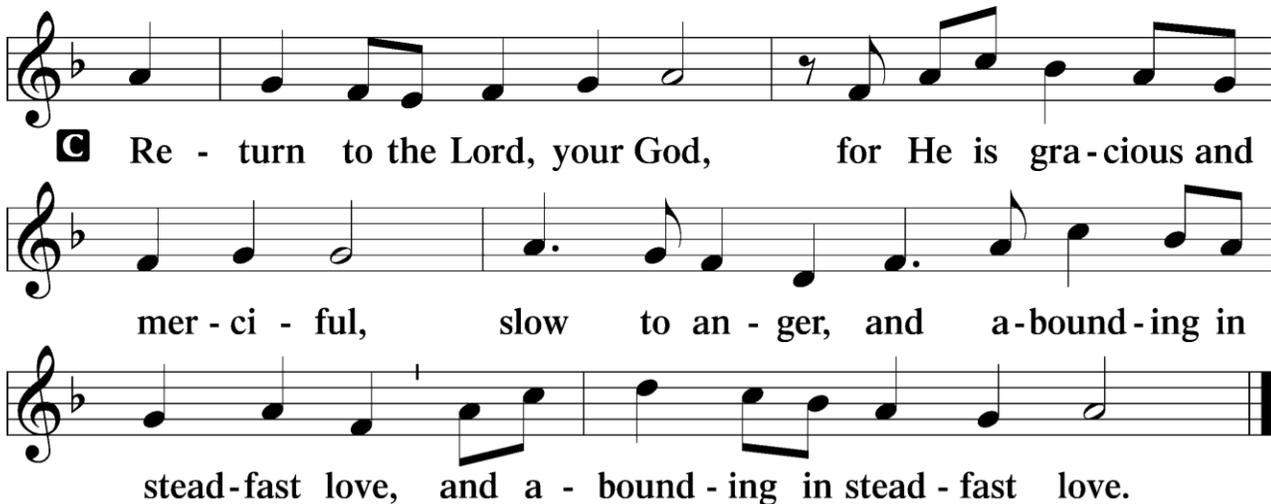
There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 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. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### LENTEN RESPONSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### HOLY GOSPEL

**John 11:17-27, 38-53**

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Justin Weber**  
Director of Christian Education

**HYMN OF THE DAY****“What Wondrous Love Is This”****LSB 543**

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down

Beneath God’s righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb,

Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.

And when from death I’m free,

I’ll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,

And through eternity I’ll sing on.

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**SERMON****“I Have Spoken”****Pastor Snow**

**RESPONSE HYMN      “Christ, the Life of All the Living”      LSB 420, vv. 1-2**

Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

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**SENDING OF ST. JOHN’S BASKETBALL TEAM TO NATIONALS**

The boys basketball team will be traveling to Fort Wayne, Indiana, March 27-29 for the National Lutheran Basketball Tournament.

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY      “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”      LSB 425, v. 4**

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Public domain

## **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**

Because the Lord has inclined His ear to us, let us call upon the One who delivers us in our time of need. Lord of life, You look upon the ways in which sin has withered our existence, and You speak Your words of life over us. Bless all pastors, that they may speak that same word with the faithfulness of Ezekiel, for the benefit of Your church and her mission,  
**for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

Loving Father, You claimed us as children in Holy Baptism, setting us free from the law of sin and death by sending Your own Son in the likeness of human flesh. Help us to forsake the ways of sinful flesh and to walk according to the Spirit who lives in us,  
**for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

Fearless Lord, give us courage to follow You into those places where death taunts and persecution lingers. Help us to fix our eyes on the One who is the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
**for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

Almighty God, precious in Your sight is the death of Your saints. Strengthen our leaders, our government, and all You have put in place to protect us, that they look upon every life entrusted to their protection with the same care,  
**for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

Merciful Lord, You deliver those who cry to You from the depths of distress and anguish. Visit the sick, the dying, and the grieving, especially... Bring them Your peace, especially as they might question Your ways and Your timing. Comfort them with the hope of life everlasting, when Your Word will restore their bodies again,

**for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

Receiving the fullness of Your Spirit and offering these prayers to You, O gracious Lord, we trust that You hear and answer us according to Your good and gracious will,

**for Jesus is the resurrection and the life. 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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

#### **"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"**

**LSB 697**

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
And Christ shall give you light;  
So learn His love, its length and breadth,  
Its fullness, depth, and height.

Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
Who died that He might save;  
With kind and gentle hearts forgive  
As God in Christ forgave.

To us on earth He came to bring  
From sin and fear release,  
To give the Spirit's unity,  
The very bond of peace.

For us Christ lived, for us He died,  
And conquered in the strife;  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
And Christ shall give you life.

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### **SENDING**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH ST. JOHN'S TODAY!**  
**If this is your first time at St. John's, we invite you to fill out a CONNECTCard located at the Welcome Desk or by using the QR code. We look forward to CONNECT-ing with you.**



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Acolytes: 8:00 Elizabeth Hennen  
 Elder: 8:00 Zac Lewis  
 Usher Team: 8:00 Jeff Rasmussen  
 Welcome Team: 8:00 Leaon Family  
 Tech Crew: 8:00 Buesgens Family  
 Coffee Hour: 9:00 Hildebrandt Family, Schaefer Family

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<b>UPCOMING WEEK</b>	
Sunday, March 22	Family Faith Night 5:00pm
Monday, March 23	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	AA 7:00pm
Wednesday, March 25	Moms in the Word 9:30am
	LCEF Regional Meeting 9:00am
	Lenten Midweek Worship 4:15/6:30pm
	Messengers of Praise Rehearsal 7:15pm
Thursday, March 26	Women's LifeLight Bible Study 9:30am
Friday, March 27	AA 6:30pm
Sunday, March 29	Palm Sunday 8:00/9:30/10:45am
	Education Hour 9:30am

**Prayers for Healing and Strength**

Stephen Wetzel  
 Anne Dutcher  
 Izzy King  
 Brody Miller

Tim Laubach  
 Sandra Lovan  
 Lois Wenz  
 Steve Lenzen

Mary Swanson  
 Pastor Al Holthus  
 Jolene Berg

## Ongoing Prayers

Carol Affeldt  
John Barney  
Merlin Bentz  
Jack Boman  
Jimann Campbell  
Julie Carver  
Marguerite Craighead  
Sunnie Deis

Anita Doss  
Sid & Merna Fjelstad  
Dennis Gaarder  
Ruth Harms  
Eugene Henke  
Carol Jones  
Len Kallsen  
Tracy Koepsell

Gretchen Laubach  
Marilyn Lenzen  
Melinda Meuwissen  
Steve Pond  
Cliff Waller  
Ruth Ziegler

## Expectant Moms

Clara Crawley-Reid  
Izzy King

Brenda Simpson  
Brittany Thormodson

Kourtney Vipond

## Celebrating Birthdays

3/22

Cameron Frederiksen  
Chris Mundahl

3/23

Kevin Knutson  
Lizzie Matzke

3/24

Kimberly Marella  
Kenley Sandvig  
Paul Sprengeler

3/24

Tori Steinert

3/25

Amy Hagen  
Josh Kulzer

3/26

Rebecca Anderson  
Kelly Becker  
Tracy Eickhoff  
Scarlett Goshy

3/26

Ryan Gustafson  
Marilyn Lenzen

3/27

Ronald Fuller

3/28

Kelsey Steinert  
Don Wenz

## Celebrating Anniversaries

3/22 Josh and Amy Peterson

3/23 Ronald and Teresa Crognali

3/25 Scott and Barb Ewing