



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

**PRE-SERVICE VIDEO**

Note

**WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

**COMMUNITY LIFE**

**Lenten Study Group** – Mondays at 9:30 am, sign up sheet in place of welcome

**Ecumenical Campus Ministry AGM** – Thursday, March 2th at 5:00 pm Lower Fireside Room

**Bowling Party** - Friday, March 27 at 3 pm at Holiday Bowl

**During the season of Lent**, we are invited to tangibly express the prayers we each bring to God. Our greeters are handing out prayer slips which you are invited to write down joys, sorrows, people, places, ministries . . . whatever is in your heart . . . and place it in the prayer basin. You are welcome to do that now if you'd like. These prayers will be brought forward and lifted up silently during our prayers today.

## PR ERIN

As our candles are lit for worship, let us take a moment to center our hearts and minds.

## GATHERING

On this fifth Sunday in Lent,  
we journey again toward the cross.  
We feel the weight of all that lies ahead.  
We wrestle with coming sorrow.  
We balance our growing needs.

God, we come here today  
braced for the hazards of this journey.  
**Instead, you pour out grace.**  
**Instead, you anoint us with oil.**  
**Instead, you fill our cups to overflowing.**

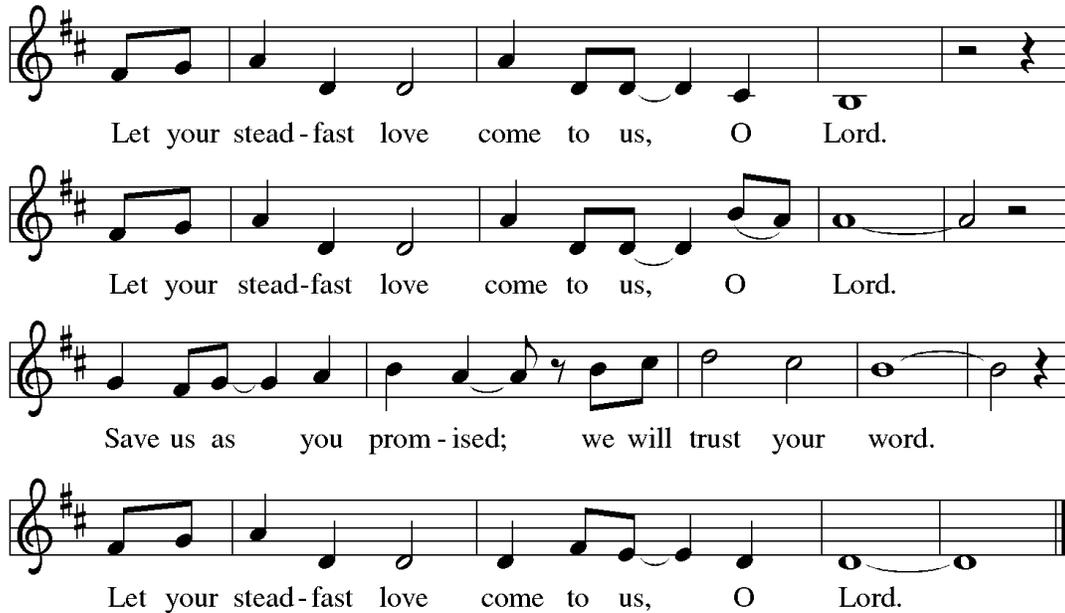
Through you, we find beauty in dry places,  
abundance in want,  
and welcome in despair.  
**You call us to the waters of life,**  
**and we respond,**  
**our longings now fulfilled.**

## WORDS OF INTENTION FOR THE DAY

One Jesus will mourn the death of Lazarus  
with Mary and Martha and many more.  
Two He has chosen his path.

One As we join Jesus,  
God prepares us  
to receive life beyond death,  
Two grace poured out  
our senses awakened anew,  
our love made complete.

## "Let Your Steadfast Love" ELW Setting 8



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

We know the pull of all  
that separates us from God.  
We long for the cleansing water  
poured out over us again.  
We seek anointing,  
the oil running its healing course.  
We feel this call to reconnect,  
so we confess our sins.

**God, we have forgotten your call,  
insistent though it is.  
We stay back  
though the waters of baptism call us forward.  
We separate ourselves  
though the bread and cup beckon us to community.  
We hide our wounds  
though the oil of anointing waits at the ready.**

God knows us better than we know ourselves.

Yet God does not withhold any good gift from us.

Like Naaman at the river, we are surprised at how easy it is to experience God's outpouring of grace.

Like the woman at the well, we share living water and watch impenetrable barriers break.

Like Mary at the feet of Jesus, we empty ourselves of all we have, only to be filled again.

Beloved, you are forgiven.

Receive now, for yourself,

the abundant grace that opens your soul to love.

**May grace flow free through us once again!**

**"Bless the Lord, My Soul" (sing twice)**

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The piano part is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The first system of music has the following lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and chord symbols (Dm, G, Bb, C, F, A) above the vocal line.

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

It is our delight to pray. Open-hearted God, you join us in grief, even when you know that a miracle is moments away. Be with us now, when we are tired and afraid of what's next. Fill up our jugs of oil, enough for today, that we may prepare all that is needed when your unexpected, abundant grace arrives to change us once again. **Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **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.

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

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. 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. Then he said to me, "Prophesy 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." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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.' 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE "When It Seems the Day Will End" ACS 1034



1 When it seems the day will end, and all  
2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing  
3 When it seems the day will end, and a



light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -  
low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -  
cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've



gain to re - mind us you are here.  
gain, and with you now en - ter in.  
been, and our hearts will be your home.

*Refrain*



New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,



joy and weep - ing, joy and weep - ing, in your call - ing. in your call - ing.

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

The holy gospel according to John the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 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. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

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." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 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. 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." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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." 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 looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 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."

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

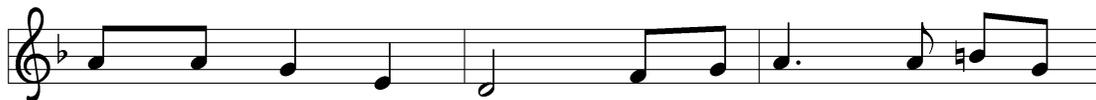
The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" ELW 334 - v 1, Lent 3 & 5 —



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your



death we are re - born; though you die in all of



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you



rise with ev - 'ry morn.

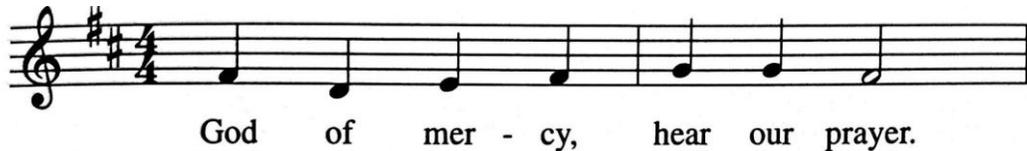
**Living Water of salvation,  
be the fountain of each soul;  
springing up in new creation,  
flow in us and make us whole.**

**God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death,  
hold us close through each tomorrow,  
love as near as ev'ry breath.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



O God, we pray for your church around the world, doing the persistent work of ministry. Pour out your courage and wisdom on all who serve you that all people may know your love and grace.

***Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.***

Send your Spirit of justice and peace to those who experience strife and discord, violence and heartbreaking need. We pray that the leaders of nations will put the needs of their people above their own desires for power and fame, that peace may prevail.

***Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.***

Send your accompanying presence to those who are unable to be among community this week, whether because of travel, illness, or vulnerability. Especially we pray for Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Victor and Judy, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Herman, Corrie, Alice, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda H, Murray, Shirley J., Derek, Shirley K., Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Clayton and Margaret, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Ray, Doreen, Alan T, Miriam and those we name silently now . . . Surround them with your love and grace.

***Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.***

We give you thanks for the gifts of family and community, and the many blessings we share. Pour out your courage and wisdom on us that together we may share in one another's joys and sorrows. Bless Stephen Ministry and hold in your care Gerda Lewke and John and Sedonia Liska, and Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans. Help us be prepared to share the feast of your love with all whom we encounter.

***Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.***

God of all things, you pour out your grace upon us through living water, healing oil, and cups running over. We bring our prayers to you, those we speak and those we hold deep in our hearts, trusting in your abundance, whether we sense it or not. Even in days of sorrow or seasons of grief, remind us of your unyielding grace. **Amen**

**MEAL**

**PR ERIN**

We set our table for the communion meal.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of grace, you give us all that we have. Teach us to recognize your gifts and to share again with you, a good portion of all that we have, pressed down and flowing over through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you.  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to God, our saving grace.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious God, we have seen your abundant goodness  
poured out across all times and all places.  
We have witnessed your presence  
everywhere life appears.  
There is no place and no time  
we cannot bring you praise.  
As we give thanks, we join with all those  
who sing of your grace,  
those who have gone before,  
those who wait ahead,  
the company of angels and all of creation,  
voices springing up together like streams in the wilderness.

### "Holy, Holy, Holy" ELW 473 – sing twice

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra-zón te a - do - ra.  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra-zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to e-res Se - ñor.  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Holy One, we trace the signs of your grace  
from the churning purples and blues  
of the watery chaos,  
calmed by your call to creation.

Water has remained,  
a witness to your faithfulness,  
calling John and Jesus to the waters of baptism,  
reaching across the years  
to an Ethiopian stranger,  
delighted to dive into the belonging you offer.

Water and oil accompanied your prophets  
as they proclaimed your work in the world.  
Anointed by oil, Jesus guided his disciples  
to notice the unexpected and the disregarded,  
even as the time came for his last supper:  
a man carrying water – a man doing women’s work –  
would guide them to the place where they would share  
one more meal.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
Jesus sat down to dinner with his friends.  
He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it,  
and passed it around the table for everyone to eat, saying,  
This is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had ended,  
and Jesus’ path approached its final turn,  
he took the cup, blessed it,  
and invited everyone 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.

Jesus, we remember you,  
and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup,  
Christ's body and blood,  
the gift of new and abundant life,  
the sign of grace poured out.  
Send your Spirit upon us  
and make us your body, too,  
poured out into a world ready for your grace.

All glory, honor, and power are yours,  
God who is and will be,  
today and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of those caught up in God's abundant love,  
we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

**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 COMMUNION**

**PR ERIN**

One loaf, broken, yet abundant.  
One cup, poured out, yet more than enough.  
Come, share in the feast.

*Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you  
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you*

**COMMUNION VIDEO – "Come, Come, Come" (Malcolm Gordon)**

# COMMUNION SONGS

## "Eat this Bread and Never Hunger"

*Refrain*

C G/B Am Am/G F C/E Dm G

Eat this bread and nev-er hun-ger, drink this cup and nev-er thirst;

C G/B Am Am/G Fmaj7 G7 C

Christ in-vites us to the ta - ble where the last be - come the first.

A♭maj7 E♭maj7

1 Ask - ing for a cup of wa - ter,  
 2 Walk - ing down a des - ert high - way,  
 3 Weep - ing for his friend at grave - side,

A♭maj7 G G7 Am A♭aug

Je - sus touched for - bid - den ground; and the wom - an,  
 Je - sus healed a man born blind; soon the man be -  
 Je - sus felt the pain of death; yet he knew God's

C/G Am/G♭ Fmaj7 G7 C F C/E Dm *to Refrain*

with a ques - tion, told the world what she had found.  
 came a wit - ness to the truth we seek and find.  
 pow'r to wak - en: liv - ing wa - ter, liv - ing breath.

## "By Your Hand You Feed Your People" ELW 469 – v1 & 3



1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.

3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:

In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod-y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er-flow-ing, life out - poured,



giv-en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re-deemed, re - stored.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O Jesus, you have shared a feast more gracious than we could ever ask, the outpouring of your own self with us. Send us out into the world to be conduits for your goodness, channels of your grace, anointing this world with the new life you have given us. Amen.

### SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care, pour out your Spirit on all who share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

Beloved, receive now this blessing:  
Life and life abundant is yours, today.

As you leave this place,  
embrace the transformation you have found here.

Like water changed to wine,  
we can share delight beyond measure.

Like new wineskins for new wine,  
we can stretch and change,  
new vessels for God's goodness.

Like the wine and oil of the Samaritan  
on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho,  
we can offer blessing,  
even as we seek healing.

God blesses you with abundance.  
✠ Christ blesses you with grace.  
The Spirit blesses you with love overflowing. Amen.

SENDING SONG "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" ELW 733



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,  
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.  
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

SENDING

Trust God's blessing as you go,  
and pour yourself out to a world in need.  
**May it be so. Amen.**

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#### Song Video

1. **“Come, Come, Come”** Malcolm Gordon Visual Contemplation.  
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