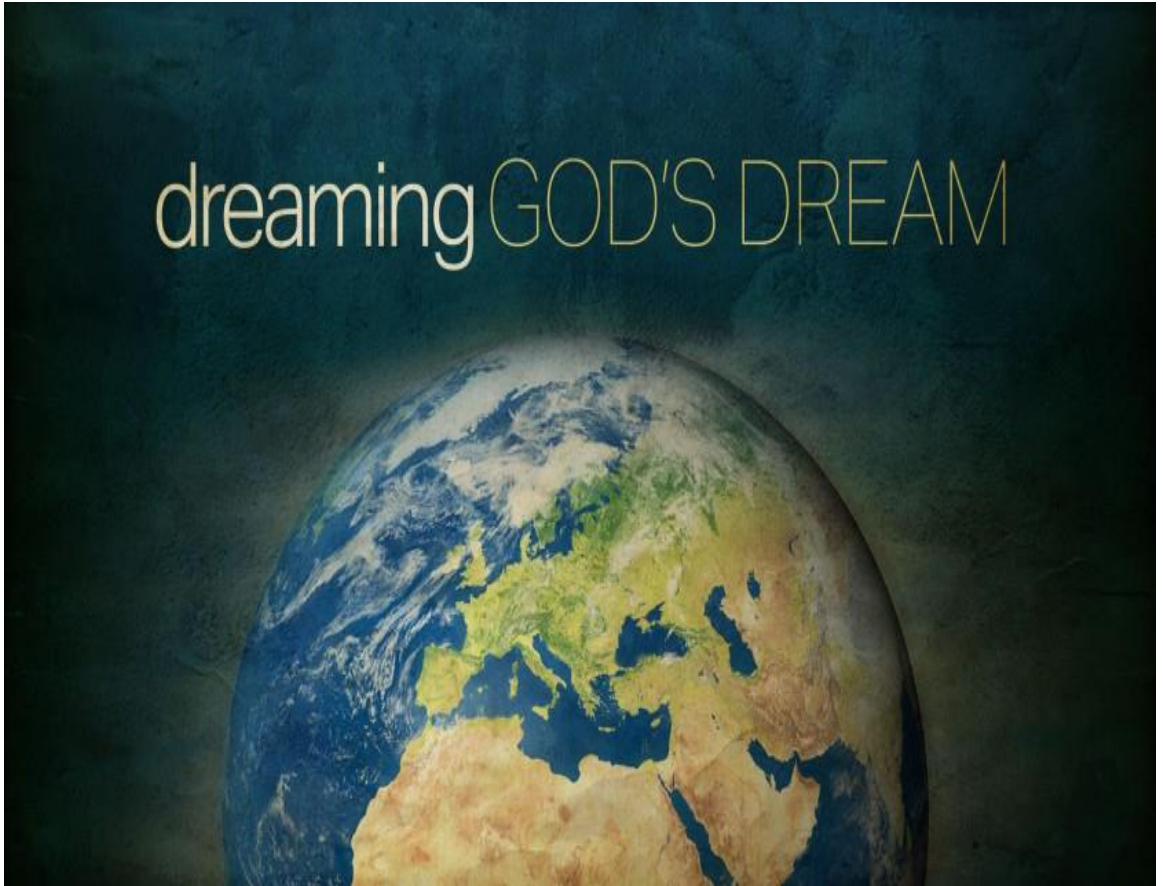


Triune Lutheran Church

dreaming GOD'S DREAM

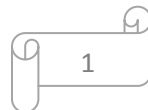


Fifth Sunday in Lent



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Lord, Jesus
Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us,
anoint us,
and make us new.

Amen!

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin,
and receive God's promise of mercy.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing. Silence is kept
for reflection and self-examination.*

God at the margins,

**We have wandered far again and again,
and we lose our way.**

We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.

**We forget that you have saved your people before
and promise to do so again.**

Do not remember the deeds of our past,

but turn our faces toward the future,

where your forgiveness is sure,

your welcome is clear,

and your love overflows.

Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks,
God embraces you in tender care.
Like manna in the desert,
God feeds you with surprising mercy.
Like a loving parent,
God runs to meet you again this day,
forgiving your sins for the sake of † Christ,
leading you from death into life.
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

ELW 319

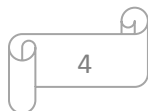
***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;



they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

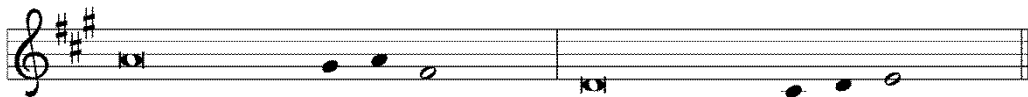
¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

²⁰The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 126



¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our
tongue with | shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”**

³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their
sheaves.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

*GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and

wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When Long before Time” Verses 1, 4, 5, 6 ELW 861

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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 OF INTERCESSION**

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of resurrection and new life, inspire your whole church to reconsider what makes us holy. When we focus on our own piety or others' sin, re-center us on Christ's faithfulness to us all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Wherever destruction by flood, famine, or fire has devastated land and lives, cause green shoots to spring up, giving hope and vision for your promised future. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Where nations are embroiled in chaos and unrest, cut a clear path for your people to follow. Lead us in ways of reconciliation, and foretell the new things you prepare. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Wipe away the tears of those who weep under the burdens of hard labor and despair, including Bev Deitrick, Paul Loede, Hazel Schwab, Trudy Weidman, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Jenny Bennett, Cathy Gallagher, Dianne Handlovics, Richard Jakubcin, Mary Phillips, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Restore them, and bring them into the joy of your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Permeate this world with the sweet perfume of Christ's anointing. Fill us all with such gratitude that it spills over into service of those who are poor or in any need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany those for whom death draws near. Bring us with all your saints to receive the abundance of heavenly glory through the covenant Christ sealed in his death and resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*PEACE

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

OFFERING

*OFFERING HYMN

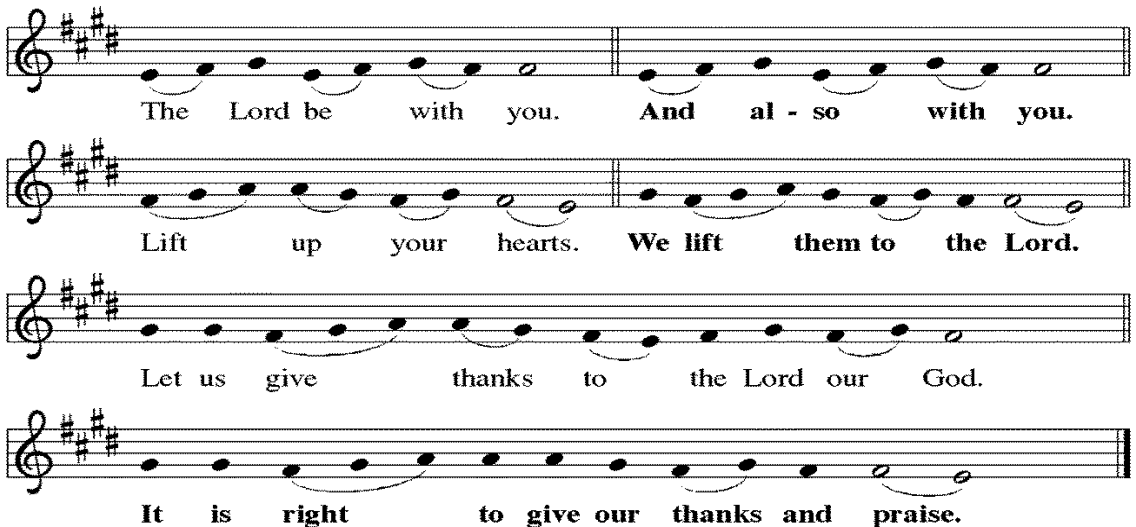
“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 188

*OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.
Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. **Amen!**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

*PREFACE

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.

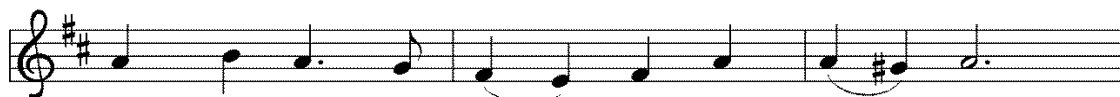
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

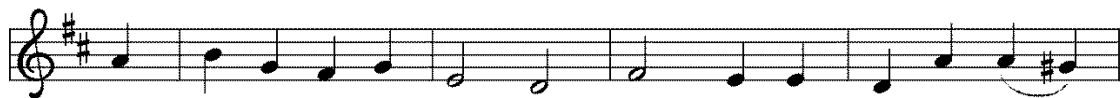
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



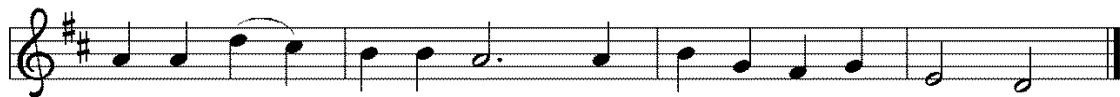
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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 THE TABLE**

Holy God,
our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.
You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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 life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Holy Spirit, pour out yourself on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both 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

Christ has prepared the feast.

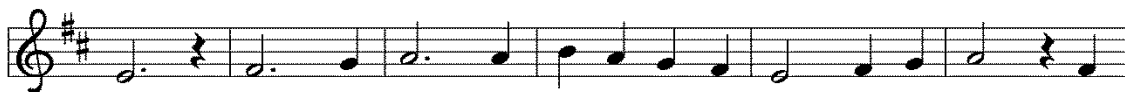
Come to the table where all are welcomed home!

Thanks be to God!

*COMMUNION HYMN



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Tender and merciful one,
at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing,
turning our emptiness into joy.

Filled with your abundant grace,
send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,
mending broken hearts, working for justice,
and striving for peace among all people,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen!

***BLESSING**

God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
✠ bless you and set you free into life everlasting.

Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW 338

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000689. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Ministers: **All People**
Pastor: **Brad Ross**
Organist: **Edith Schatt**
Worship Leader: **Dale Kirk**
Office Manager: **Jan Piskac**

Even More Redemption

I came to Lutheran Christianity and the ELCA only in my late 20s. I had grown up in various Christian denominations and nondenominations. But a Daniel Erlander cartoon posted on a door at Jacob's Porch, Ohio State's Lutheran campus ministry, made me want to find out more about this particular tribe of Christians. The caption on the image said something to the effect that Lutherans are Christians who claim to be born again ... and again, and again, and again. This resonated deeply with my experience of having been claimed and called by God into new life many times over since I became a Christian.

This week's lectionary passages point us toward God's ongoing redemptive work. God is not content to set God's people free once. But every time we stumble and fall, God is anxious to lift us back up.

Even the most cursory reading of the Hebrew Bible uncovers tales of God repeatedly saving God's people. After freeing the Israelites from Pharaoh's oppression in Egypt, God sends judges to free the people when they are subjugated in their homeland. After miraculously relieving the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem in Elisha's time, God redeems Judahites from their exile in Babylon.

The ongoing role of the Lord as the protector and redeemer of God's people is explicit in Isaiah. God reminds the people that they were freed by God who made "a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters" (Isaiah 43:16). God then said, "I am about to do a new thing. ... I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:19). [article continues on page 20 in the bulletin]

I met a man without a dollar to his name
Who had no traits of any value, but his smile
I met a man who had no yearn or claim to fame
Who was content to let life pass him for a while
And I was sure that all I ever wanted
Was a life like the movie stars led
And he kissed me right here
And said,

“I’ll give you stars and the moon
And this soul to guide you
And the promise I’ll never go
I’ll give you hope to bring out
All the life inside you
And the strength that’ll help you grow
I’ll give you truth and a future that’s twenty times better
Than any Hollywood plot.”
And I thought, “You know,
I’d rather have a yacht.”

I met a man who lived his life out on the road
Who left a wife and kids in Portland on a whim
I met a man whose fire and passion always showed
Who asked if I could spare a week to ride with him
But I was sure that all I ever wanted
Was a life that was scripted and planned
And he said, “But you don’t understand -

I’ll give you stars and the moon
And the open highway
And the river beneath your feet
I’ll give you days full of dreams
If you travel my way
And a summer you can’t repeat

I'll give you nights full of passion and days of adventure
No strings - just warm summer rain."
And I thought, "You know,
I'd rather have champagne."

I met a man who had a fortune in the bank
Who had retired at age thirty, set for life
I met a man and didn't know which stars to thank
And then he asked one day if I would be his wife
And I looked up, and all I could think of
Was the life I had dreamt I would live
And I said to him, "What will you give?"

"I'll give you cars and a townhouse
In Turtle Bay
And a fur and a diamond ring
And we'll get married in Spain
On my yacht today
And honeymoon in Beijing
And you'll meet stars at the parties I throw in my villas
In Nice and Paris in June."

And I thought, "Ok."
And I took a breath
And I got my yacht
And the years went by
And it never changed
And it never grew
And I never dreamed
And I woke one day
And I looked around
And thought, "My God,
I'll never have the moon."

"The Stars and the Moon"

Songs for a New World

Music & Lyrics by

Jason Robert Brown

Whereas God had once freed the Israelites from Egypt by making a dry path through the sea, later God made a well-watered path through the desert to redeem them from Babylon. The point is that wherever God's people find themselves trapped, God will make a way toward freedom.

Because the Israelites were so well acquainted with God's repeated redemptions, they were confident enough to pray for yet more freedom. I love Psalm 126 because it captures not only that ongoing gratitude and trust in God but also a yearning for God's work in the world to be completed soon. The passage begins by saying that when God restored the captives to Zion, the people felt as if they were dreaming, and they were filled with joyful laughter. Only a few verses later, however, the psalmist begs for God to redeem the captives not yet released (Psalm 126:4). The psalm ends with the assurance that those who weep will soon be made joyful. God has redeemed us. God is redeeming us. God will redeem us.

The best picture of God's ongoing redemption, in my opinion, comes from John 12. In this week's reading, Jesus' close friends throw a party to celebrate his raising of Lazarus from the dead. Martha serves a delicious meal while the freshly resurrected Lazarus reclines with Jesus. Mary returns to her customary place at Jesus' feet (Luke 10:39), but instead of learning with the rest of his disciples, this time she anoints his feet with costly perfume (John 12:3). This beautiful picture of a brother returned to his sisters and people lovingly celebrating Jesus for demonstrating that he *is* the resurrection (John 11:25) could have been enough. Jesus demonstrates power over death and speaks the words of eternal life (John 6:68). He has already rescued and redeemed one of his friends from the power of death and decay. He is being celebrated, surrounded by those he loved. But Jesus had more to do. Having mounted a rescue mission to free one captive of death was not enough. Jesus would not just redeem and resurrect a few humans piecemeal. Rather, he would die to redeem all people from the powers of sin and death (Romans 5:18).

Our God is not satisfied with a little salvation or a moderate amount of redemption. Scripture testifies that God's work—especially God's saving mission as demonstrated through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus—is ongoing. God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9), so he keeps pursuing us to bring us to redemption from sin and death. In this season of Lent, as we meditate on the lengths to which Jesus went to save us, let us honor his self-sacrifice by reflecting on the ways that God continues to redeem and restore us and our neighbors daily.

- Cory Driver, PhD (see *Lectinary Blog* and other resources at LivingLutheran.org)