

***Dismissal**

Go — you have been unbound. Live freely in the grace of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Dan Fleming, Eddie Flick, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Holly Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Jennifer Lewane, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Verl Williamson, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for Lenten offerings 10.00

General Fund receipts for week ending 3/15/2026:\$ 2720.00



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 22, 2026

9:00 am

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Rev, Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Bert Zahn
Lector	Karen Zack
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vanessa Petrakos

*Sending Hymn: What Wondrous Love is This ELW# 666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

*Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, you have fed us at your table. We have received the bread and the cup, your presence planted in us like a seed in winter ground. Send us now to live these days nourished, honest, and unafraid. We trust that what you have planted shall rise, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Blessing

Go now, tended by the God who holds the seed through the long winter dark, breathed upon by the Spirit who calls life from dry bones, and freed by the Love that rolls away every stone. The blessing of the holy and life-giving God — Creator, Christ, and Spirit — go with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Fifth Sunday in Lent— March 22, 2026

Litany: A Special Lenten Fast

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.

Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.

Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.

Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.

Give up worrying: take up trust in God.

Give up complaining: value what you have.

Give up stress: take up prayer.

Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.

Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.

Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.

Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.

Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

— anonymous, Latin America. Posted on the CAFOD website

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

O mortals, can these bones live?

Only the Lord God knows.

We have planted seeds in the dark and cannot see them.

We wait in hope, trusting the ground that holds us.

So then, let us hope in the Lord.

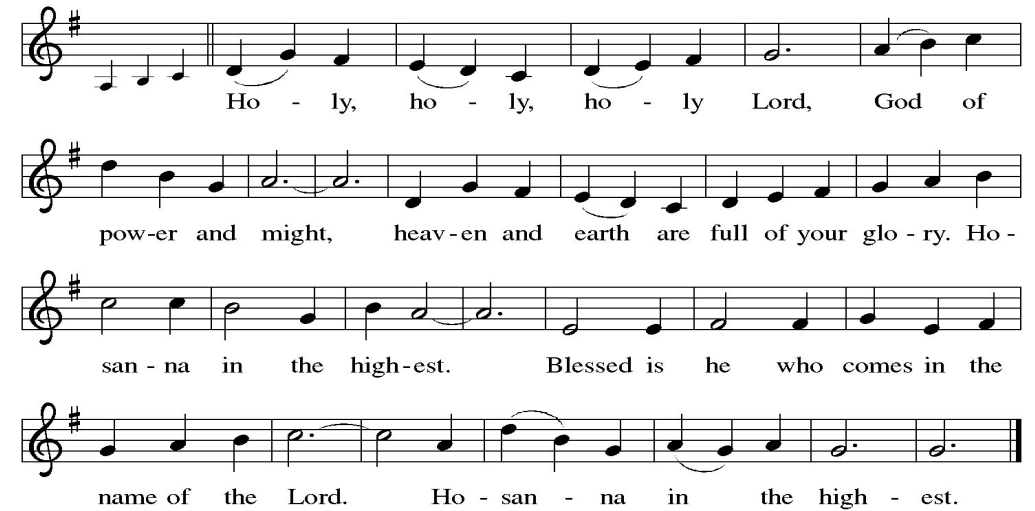
With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us confess our sin.

O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? **We confess that we lack patience – with ourselves, with one another, with you. We demand to see the green shoot before we trust the seed. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. We have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We have grown weary of waiting and mistaken your silence for absence. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! Therefore we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. Amen.**

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! The one who calls forth life from the valley, who breathes into what is scattered and dry, has not forgotten the seeds you have planted. If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies – and bring to fullness all that has been buried in hope. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Communion Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Christ taught us

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.

*Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Tend what we offer as seeds planted in faith. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

Holy One, in this dry and weary land
we give you thanks and praise.

You provide for us in our need;
you set a table for us in the wilderness.

Even when we despair and complain against you,
you feed us with bread from heaven.

Even when we quarrel and question your grace,
you give us water from a stone.

How can we keep silent?

Even dry bones in the valley of death
stand to sing your praise:

*Sanctus (next page)

*Gathering Hymn: Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing ELW # 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace! | 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n. |
|---|---|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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***Greeting:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Prayer of the Day

Lord God, Great I Am, you are resurrection and life. As we worship you this day show us who we are: bearers of good news and messengers of the new life of resurrection. 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.**

Children's Moment

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

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 multi-

We give thanks for all who have died in faith. Give us courage to trust your power to call life from dry bones, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

*Sharing of the Peace

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

*Offertory Hymn: In The Bleak Midwinter ELW # 294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

We pray for creation. We hold before you our neighbors across Northeast Ohio — thousands still without power and light after last week's storms, and all who work through the night to restore what the wind has broken. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats, and sustain the slow hidden work of growth in places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. We grieve the thousands who have died across the Middle East as war continues to take lives and displace families. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live under the shadow of violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers through the long hard waiting to safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console neighbors across our region who are still in the dark and in the cold, and all who are worn thin by waiting for things to be made right. Heal all who are sick — those in hospitals and those healing at home, those who have just received a difficult diagnosis and those who have been living with illness for a long time, those whose bodies are weary and those whose minds and spirits are exhausted, those who have advocates at their side and those who face their suffering alone. Hold them all in your mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. Tend the seeds of faith, healing, and new life that your people have planted in hope. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection, and give us patience to trust what we cannot yet see. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

tude.

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.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 130

¹ Out ¹ of the depths

I cry to ¹ you, O LORD;

² **O LORD, ¹ hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my ¹ supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch ¹ over sins,

O LORD, ¹ who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you ¹ is forgiveness,**

in order that you ¹ may be feared.

⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; ¹ my soul waits;

in your word ¹ is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch ¹ for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch ¹ for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is ¹ steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plen- ¹ teous redemption.

For the LORD shall ¹ redeem Israel

from ¹ all their sins.

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

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, then the body is dead because of sin, but 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 Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

*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 the People

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

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us your patient, renewing Spirit, so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

*Hymn of the Day: You Are the Way ELW # 758



1 You are the way; to you a-lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a-lone true wis-dom can im-part;
3 You are the life; the rend-ing tomb pro-claims your con-qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on-ly can in-form the mind and pu-ri-fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e-ter-nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

*Gospel: John 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

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.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you Christ!**

Sermon