

March 21-22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND (u) PASSING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP "LEAD ME LORD"

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
Make thy way plain before my face.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

- P** For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,
- C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
- P** God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.
- C** Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land"

**Ref. Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
A weary land, a wear - y land;
My Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
A shelter in a time of storm.**

- 1 No one can do like Jesus, not a mumbling word he said;
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave,
and he raised him from the dead. (Refrain)**
- 3 Yonder comes my Savior, him whom I love so well;
he has the palm of victory
and the keys of death and hell. (Refrain)**

GREETING

- P From our God who loves us with an everlasting love, who brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us by the Spirit in the wilderness: Grace and abundant mercy be with you all.**
- C And also with you.**

KYRIE

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy; have mer – cy. O Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together.

G Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. 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.

(d)

ANTHEM

LESSON OF THE DAY

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The lesson begins:

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'" So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to

open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.”

P **The Word of the Lord.**

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130 – RESPONSIVE

P **Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;**

C **Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

P **If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?**

C **But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

P **I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.**

C **I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

P **Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

C **He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

(u)

ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, your_ God, for he is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

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

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

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you

love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When

Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then 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?" Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(d)

SERMON

(u)

SERMON RESPONSE "O GOD, WHO GIVES US LIFE"

O_ God, who gives us_ life and breath,

Who shapes us in_ the womb,

Who_ guards our lives from birth to death,

Then_ leads_ us from the tomb:

Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you,

Help us to know your_ Spirit still

Is_ mak – ing all things new.

APOSTLES' CREED

- P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

(d)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A** Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

A brief silence.

- A** Lord, we live in a valley of deathly shadows. Thank you for Jesus, who calls us by name from our tombs. Help us to firmly believe that his is our Resurrection and our Life. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer
- A** Breathe your Spirit upon your Church. Make it the living body of Jesus in the world. In Word and Sacrament, and by deeds of mercy and forgiveness, let it share your life and grace with all who are held captive to sin, evil and death. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer

A Breathe your Spirit upon this congregation, so that our worship, words, and deeds abound with the fruits of that Spirit. Fill us with Jesus, and give us grace to share his life with everyone we meet. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

A Breathe your Spirit upon all who risk their lives to defend life and liberty. Keep them faithful, true, and bold. Shield and direct them in perilous situations. Raise and heal them when they fall. Deliver them into a place of safety when their task has ended. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

A Breathe your Spirit upon all who all who suffer, including: **{List}**. As Jesus raised up Lazarus from death, we beseech you, raise up these dear and restore them to their loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

A Holy and gracious Father, thank you for calling your faithful servants by name, out of death and into your eternal life. Breathe your Spirit upon us, for we are still troubled by the sin, death, and the devil. Give us grace to comfort, encourage, and help each other along life's road. Grant us faith to confess your Son as the Resurrection and the Life, the One who has come into the world to bring us salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING

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OFFERTORY "LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL"

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
And_ fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams_ of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
And give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING / WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

P It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. In love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, your love remained steadfast. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter feast, that, renewed by your Word and Sacraments and fervent in prayer and works of justice and mercy, we may come to the fullness of grace that you have prepared for those who love you. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (SUNG)

Holy, ho - ly, holy Lord_, God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth_ are full of your glory.

Hosanna in_ the highest.

Blessed_ is he who comes_ in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in_ the highest_, hosanna in_ the highest.

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem the world. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in our likeness. He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. He took upon himself our sin and death and offered himself, a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** As a community, let us pray in the way our Lord Jesus has taught us: *(SPOKEN)*
- 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

(d)

THE COMMUNION is given and received.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS"

1 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,
trav'lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love,
let us do our Savior's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where you guide.

4 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.

DISMISSAL

A Let us go forth in the name of the Lord,
G To know Christ, and to make Christ known.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Healer of Our Every Ill

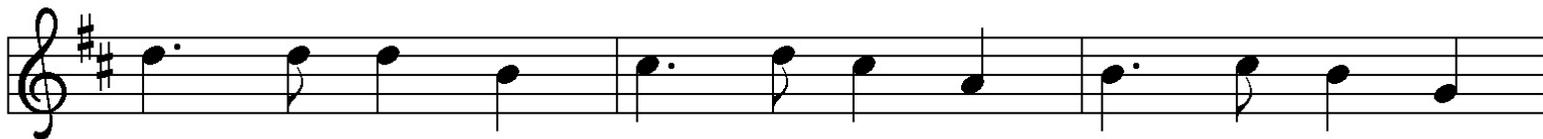
Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.