

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
March 22nd, 2026 – Fifth Sunday of Lent
Pastor Stephanie Newman

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude

John Joanette

GATHERING

(Please Stand)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

A: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

A: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

A: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

A: 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.

A: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

A: 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.

A: 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.

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.

Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen

Song**Kyrie Eleison/Instead of Cross Gen Song****WP 81****Cross-Generation Message****WORD****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."

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, "Prophecy 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, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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, prophecy 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.”

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 130

The Psalm will be read responsively

A: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

C: O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

A: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

A: I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

C: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

A: O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love; with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

C: For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation will please stand as able & comfortable

Gospel Verse

Let your Steadfast Love
(Lights off after Gospel Verse)

ELW setting 8 p. 189

The Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to: **John 11:1-45**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

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. ¹⁴ 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, 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Congregation will please be seated

The Sermon

Pastor Stephanie Newman

*The Congregation will please stand as able
(Lights on after Sermon)*

Hymn of the Day

Take my life, that I may be

ELW 685 (Vs.1,2,3,4)

** Pass Info Slips to Side Aisle and Prayer cards to the inside aisle*

Nicene Creed

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will
have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the
Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world
and its needs. *A brief silence.*

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

C: receive our prayer.

A We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those
who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where
biodiversity thrives. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all
who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so
many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer

A: We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be
baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You may now offer a prayer petition either out loud or in your heart. (pause) Merciful
God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

Offering

Special Music

Chancel Choir

Offertory

I Surrender All

TFF #235 (Vs. 1)

Offering Prayer

**C: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Communion

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 our thanks and praise.

P: 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 angles, with the church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

ELW setting 8 p. 190

P: 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.

The Lord's Prayer (*Sung*)

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Interlude

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive
our debtors

Interlude

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Invitation to Communion

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

(Please be seated)

Communion Distribution

Lamb of God

Lamb of God

ELW setting 8 p. 191

Communion Hymns

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471 (1-3)

Come Let Us Eat

ELW 491 (1-4)

For the bread that you have broken

ELW 494 (1-4)

What Feast of Love

ELW 487 (1-3)

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.

C: Amen.

(The Congregation will please stand as able and comfortable)

Pastor's Blessing

Blessing

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547 (Vs.1,2)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.