



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship

March 22, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Community Moment

Prelude *There is a Balm in Gilead* arr. Brandt
 Robert Blazek, clarinet

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and
dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your
word: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the
world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

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.

Opening Hymn

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing ELW 886

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.

Kyrie

(ELW p. 98)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Prayer Of The Day

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.

(please be seated)

Reading

Reader: The Reading today is from Ezekiel 37:1-14

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, 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.”

Reader: Word of God, word of Life.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Reader: The Psalm today is Psalm 130



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

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

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

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

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

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

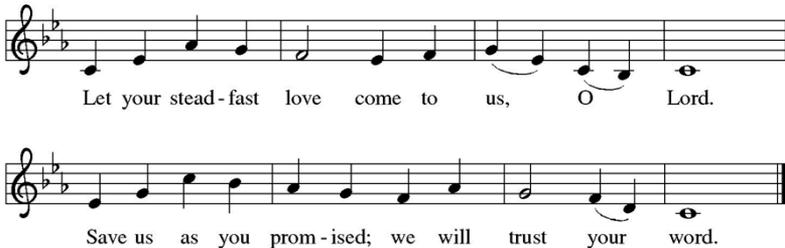
O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord
there is | steadfast love;
with the Lord there is plen- | teous redemption.

**For the Lord shall | redeem Israel
from | all their sins.**

(please rise in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation

(ELW p. 103)



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Preacher: The Gospel according to John the 11th chapter.

Congregation: **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.

Preacher: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(please be seated)

The Message

Pastor Ryan Mackey

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart ELW 750

The 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 Church

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.
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Great Thanksgiving

(ELW p. 107)

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Presiding Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(ELW p. 108)

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of'. The second staff has two measures: 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff has two measures: 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Words of Institution

The 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

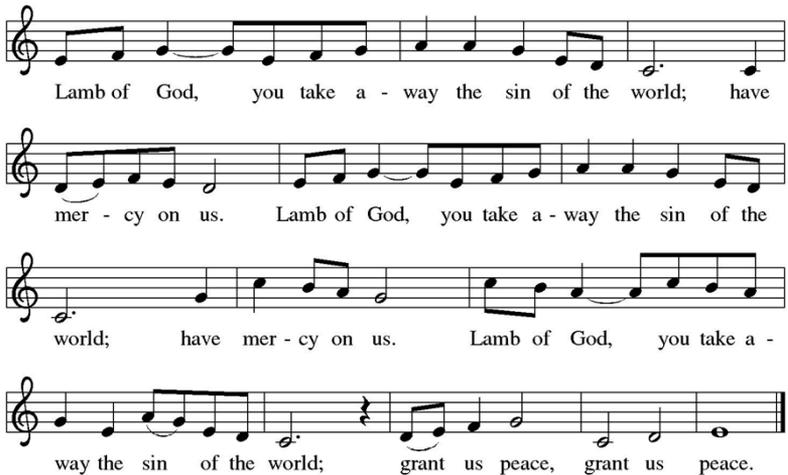
Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Music

Lamb of God

(ELW p. 112)



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.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 773
ELW 485

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray together.

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.

Benediction

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. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense ELW 621

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Shepherd of the Prairie

Lutheran Church

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