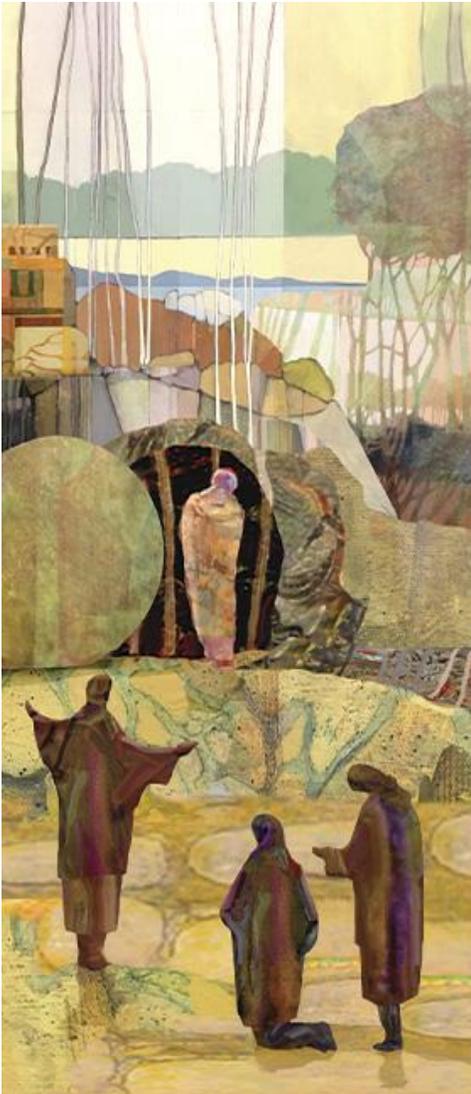


Christ Lutheran Church
115 Church Street, Duncannon, PA 17020
717.834.3140
Pastor Jennifer Toburen
Organist – Joe Abate
www.clcduncannon.org



UNBIND HIM,
AND
LET HIM GO

JOHN 11:44

Sunday, March 22, 2026

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Announcements

Congregation please stand

OPENING/CALL TO WORSHIP

P: From water to wilderness:

**C: God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

P: On stone and in hearts;

**C God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

P: From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

**C: God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

P: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

C: for where he is, we would be also.

From: *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion – Year C, Vol. 1*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long, p. 102.

PREPARING

Brief Order for 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.

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 disdainng 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.

Gathering Hymn

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

ELW 320

The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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APOSTOLIC 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.

Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

Vieme to, Panez Bože náš

Leader



Otče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.

- 1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
- 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
- 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

All



*Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren*



*nás hrieš - nych hme - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
c - vil, ev - 'ry woc; up - on your cross - for -
death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
that your word has made. Now make us grow and*



*ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.*

Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: ZŇAME TO, PANE BOŽE NÁŠ. *Tranoscius*, 1636

Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House

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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

WORD

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, “Prophesy 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, “Prophesy 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 multitude.

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.”

Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹ Out | of the depths
 I cry to | you, O LORD;
- ² **O LORD, | hear my voice!**
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.
- ³ If you were to keep watch | over sins,
 O LORD, | who could stand?
- ⁴ **Yet with you | is forgiveness,**
in order that you | may be feared.
- ⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;
 in your word | is my hope.
- ⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,**
more than those who keep watch | for the morning.
- ⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;
 with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.
- ⁸ **For the LORD shall | redeem Israel**
from | all their sins.

Second Reading**Romans 8: 6-11**

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Congregation please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 11: 1-45

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 the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jennifer

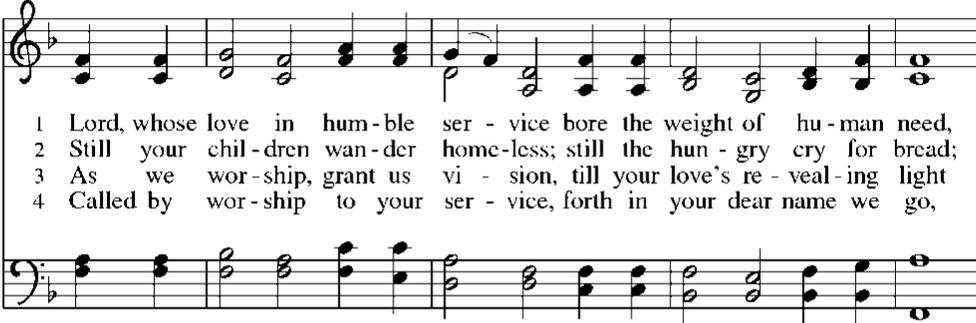
Congregation please stand

Hymn of the Day

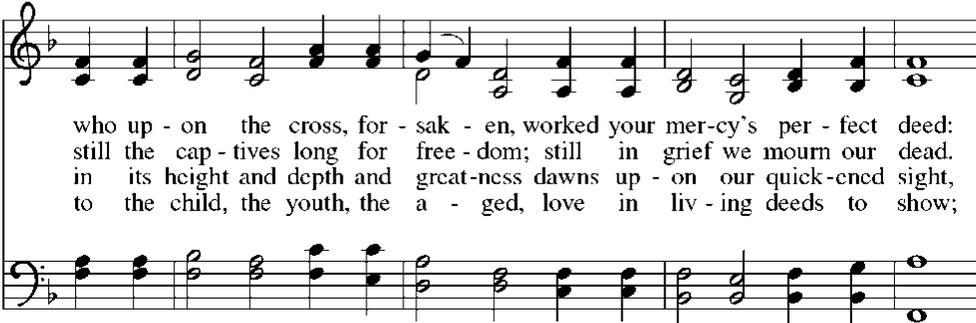
“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

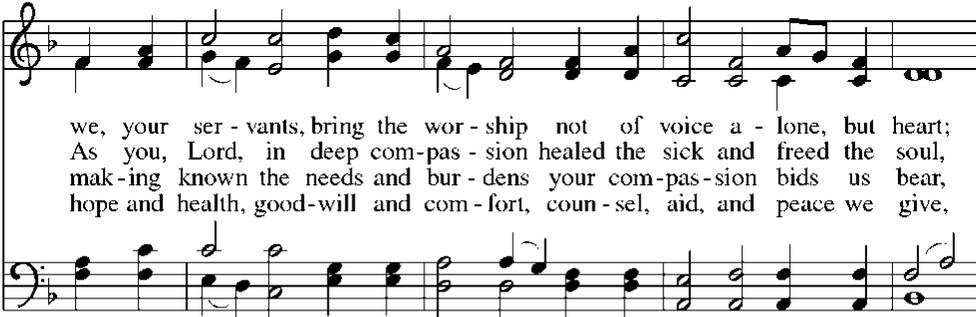
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



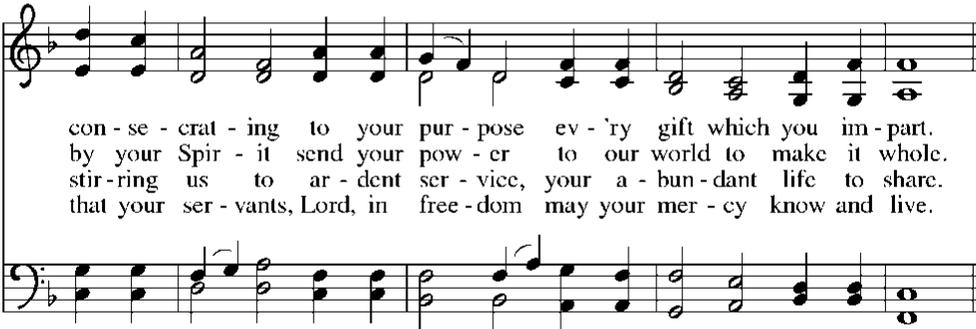
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.
 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

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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.**

Sign of Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

C 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.

C 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.

C Your mercy is great.

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 Shirley, Allan, Charlotte, Jack, Cathy, Roxy, Karen, Darlene, Ron, Chuck, Jessie, Helen, Carol, Millie, Lillian, Marian, Peggy, Glenn, Sandy, Lisa and the family of Joanne.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

We pray for this assembly. We pray for our neighbors. Bless those who live in our local community; strengthen our good will, and let us dwell in harmony.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

Stewardship Snippet – Romans 8:6 – “To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”

Sometimes stewarding the soul is as simple as “setting your mind on the Spirit,” leaning into our faith and taking steps toward life and peace.

Lector - We will now worship God with our offering.

Offertory



☩ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
 sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
 Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

MEAL

P Let us pray,

C Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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 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, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

With this bread and cup
 we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life:
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Bless this feast.
 Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
 Holy One of Israel,
 Word of God incarnate,
 Power of the Most High,
 one God, now and forever.

Amen.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

P So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who are wandering still.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Amen.

Please be seated

Lamb of God

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.

Holy Communion

Prepackaged communion is available for those who wish to remain in the pews.

Communion Hymns

803, 773, 335

Congregation please stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Post Communion Hymn

☩ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. A - men, a - men.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

SENDING

Charge

These Lenten days will take us to the cross of Christ.
Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone.
Nor do we have to be afraid,
for the Word of God strengthens us and the Holy Spirit
sustains us.

Blessing

May the love of God pursue you,
the light of Christ enfold you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you;
as you dwell in the house of the Lord
your whole life long.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

“You Are the Way”

ELW 758

You Are the Way

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

P We at Christ Lutheran Church are
C God's called, Loved Children who serve.
P Go in Peace. The living Word dwells in you.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Sexton: Judy Swartz - Email: gammy2072@gmail.com

Prayer Concerns

Shirley Hoffman, Pat Reich, Elyse Brown, Allan Imler, Sylvia Webb & the Indian Mobile Mission, Join Hands, Loads of Love, Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Brian Proctor, Joanne Reisinger, Jackie Maguire, Jack Smith, Cathy Cavanaugh, Charlotte Dyer, Rachelle Gilcrease, Roxy Huss, Karen Ersoz, Carol Darr, Darlene Johnson, Ron Hoffman, Ron & Nancy Moore, Chuck Hoffman, Helen Huss, Jessie Frye, Carol Shumaker, Millie Bell, Lillian Kistler, Marian Hoffman, Hope Kominek, Matthew Landis, Peggy Paden, Glenn Shumaker, Tonya Sands, Chris Hope, Velma Wittlinger, Lindsey Melnick, Judy Moore, Donna Kistler, Kristen Gaisior, Charlene McBride, Gay Weller, Sandy Hoover, the family of Clyde Jr, Frank Valentine, the family of Doug Leonhard, Lisa Dubay, Shelly Hill, the family of Joanne Speis.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector/prayers – Ernie Meisel
Next Sunday – Joe Abate

Wine – Ann Fleisher
Next Sunday – Bill Brookhart

Grape Juice – Bill Brookhart
Next Sunday – Becky Yohe

Altar Guild – Barbara Still
Next Sunday – Jean Tota

Counters – Kendra Masser, Joe Kistler
Next Sunday – Terry Kuhn, Velma Wittlinger

Ushers – Team 1
Allan Imler, Ann Fleisher,
Brianne Chubb, Adam Still

SUNDAY, March 22nd, 2026

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Worship service – 11:00am – Holy Communion
Bible Study – 7pm - Zoom
Congregational Meeting following worship

MONDAY, March 23rd, 2026

TUESDAY, March 24th, 2026

Bible Study – 1pm – Zoom
Community Outreach Committee meeting
7pm - Zoom

WEDNESDAY, March 25th, 2026

Final Midweek Lenten Service – 7pm

THURSDAY, March 26th, 2026

LWR Quilters – 1pm

FRIDAY, March 27th, 2026

SATURDAY, March 28th, 2026

SUNDAY, March 29th, 2026

Palm Sunday
Worship service – 11:00 am – Holy Communion
Bible Study – 7pm - Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting Today – A Congregational Meeting will be held today following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the long term pastoral sharing agreement with Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. A quorum is required to vote. Please plan to stay for this important meeting.

Sign up sheet for Dinner Church – If you plan to attend Dinner Church on Wednesday, April 1st, please see Cindy B to sign up. There is a planning meeting scheduled for today following worship for anyone who would like to attend.

Live streaming assistance for Lisa – Lisa is recuperating from ankle surgery. She will be in need of some assistance livestreaming the worship service on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. Please see Lisa or Pastor Jenn if you are able to help.

Social Ministry Project for March – Blessing Bags - During this season of Lent we will once again be gathering items that will be used to create “Blessing Bags” for our neighbors in need.

The list of items that we will need are as follows:

Water Bottles (16 oz size)

Chapstick

Granola Bars

Individuals Packs of Trail Mix, Nuts, Crackers

Instant Oatmeal Packages

Gum

Hard Candies

Kleenex – travel size

We will assemble the bags as part of our Dinner Church worship service on Wednesday, April 1st and we will bless the bags on Easter Sunday. After that, they will be available for church members to take a couple of these to carry with you in the car so that if you come across someone who is in need you will have a bag of supplies ready to offer! Let us offer light and hope in a weary world!

March Meetings/Events

- March 22 – Congregational Meeting following the worship service.
 March 24 – Community Outreach committee meeting – 7pm - Zoom
 March 25 – Final midweek Lenten service – 7pm.

April Meeting/Events

- April 1 – Dinner Church – 6pm.
 April 2 – Maundy Thursday Service – **5pm.**
 April 3 – Good Friday Service – **5pm.**
 April 5 – Easter Sunrise Service – 7am.
 Traditional Worship – **8:30am.**
 April 6 – Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser planning meeting – 6pm.
 Finance committee meeting – 7pm – Zoom
 April 9 – Church Council meeting – 6:30pm.
 April 21 – Twin Kiss (Shermansdale) Fundraiser
 April 25 – Earth Day at Clark’s Ferry Tavern
 April 28 – Community Outreach committee meeting – 7pm – Zoom

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 22, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Roll the Stone Away

You can understand why they don't want to roll the stone away. "Already there is a stench," Martha says (John 11:39). Why open the grave? Why let out that smell? There could be no purpose. After all, Lazarus is dead.

This is not unbelief. "I believe that you are the Messiah," Martha says (v. 27), confident that her brother would one day rise again. But it is a faith that desperately wants God to provide an escape from suffering and struggle: "If you had been here," both sisters say, "my brother would not have died" (vv. 21, 32). The presence of Jesus, they think, should protect them from pain and death.

What they don't understand, though, is that the places of pain and suffering are exactly where Jesus goes. He enters dead places to bring hope to life. He transforms the stench of decay into an aroma of thriving. He summons Lazarus out of the tomb to walk into freedom.

This is why Jesus tells them to take away the stone. He wants to open the place that they are convinced holds only grief, and to expose what they believe to be a shameful smell. Yes, it is difficult to face. However, only when the grave is opened can Lazarus respond to Jesus' call. Martha and Mary must remove the stone that hides what they do not want to bear, so that new life can emerge from the tomb.

What are the stone-covered places in your life? What are the places in your heart that you are convinced hold only pain, decay, and fear? In the tender love of Jesus, you do not need to hide them. Jesus is calling you to open them. He will enter these places with resurrection power, transforming death into life and shame into glory. Facing these tombs takes courage. But you can trust that Jesus will bring healing to your brokenness. He is in the business of calling the dead back to life. Let the stones be rolled away.