

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 22, 2026  
10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

**Welcome Friends and Guests:** In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

**Serving this Sunday:**

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Mike McNeil & Cristy Street  
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Sharon Sorenson  
Ushers – David Novey & John Rygiel  
Communion – Julie Morris & Cherie Holder



**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

**Worship & Music:** In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to learn more about us. *Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. We use both the cranberry book of Worship and the purple *All Creation Sings* hymnals as indicated in the bulletin.

**Communion:** We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

**Other:** Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall; our ushers can direct you.

**Fellowship:** Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation. All are welcome!

***Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.***

~Gathering~

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship**

Healing God, we come together in our brokenness,  
to call to you in your mercy, to make us whole again.

**Wholeness—giving God, listen to our prayers, we pray.**

Restoring God, we gather to worship you, even as  
we hopefully seek to be renewed and restored again.

**God, our Quiet-Center, listen to our prayers this day.**

Foundational God, we come to praise and thank you!  
In the depths of your Holy Being we find peace and rest.

**God – our Beginning and our End, we hope always in you. Amen.**

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open...worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silent Reflection

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us....in the name of the creator God, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

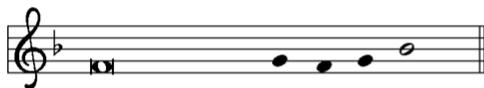
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism...To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: #712 (cranberry hymnal) Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

### **Greeting**

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

# Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



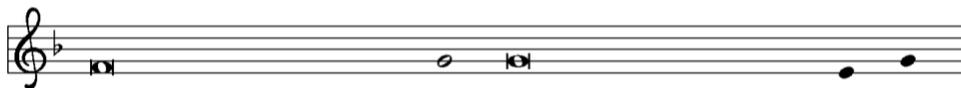
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



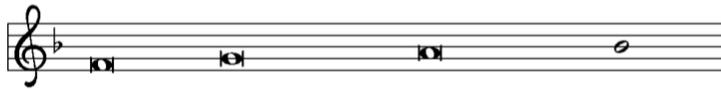
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

## **Prayer of the Day**

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

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.**

~Word~

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> 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."

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> 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.'

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> 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.**

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 130**

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

<sup>2</sup> **O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love; with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

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

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

<sup>7</sup> 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, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> 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**



Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

**Gospel: John 11:1-45**

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

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

<sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> 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." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> 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." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

<sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> 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." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> 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." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

<sup>44</sup> 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." <sup>45</sup> 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.**

**Children's Message:** Mary McKenna

**Sermon:** Pastor Lisa Rygiel

**Hymn of the Day:** #336 (cranberry hymnal) Lamb of God: Your Only Son

### **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 People**

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. Be with those who work to protect our lands from wildfire and our waters from pollution. 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 are threatened by war and violence. Guide the displaced, refugees, and asylum seekers 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 any who weep and heal all who are sick especially...

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. 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. **Your mercy is great.**

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

### **Peace**

The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

*~Meal~*

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Offering**

*As evident through all of creation, God has given freely to us as we freely give now.  
You can give via check or cash, by mail to 510 Pine Street, or online at:  
[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741).*

**Offertory:** #323 (cranberry hymnal) God Loved the World, vs. 1

### **Offering Prayer**

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these 40 days...Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Great Prayer of 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...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, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed...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.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for  
the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**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**

*God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.*

*Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.*

*Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available. God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness.*

*Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation.*

**Communion Hymn: #773 (cranberry hymnal) Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

**Communion Hymn: #772 (cranberry hymnal) Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways**

**Communion Song: Lamb of God**

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: '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.' The notation includes various note values, rests, and triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) over the words 'a-way' and 'mer-cy'.

### Communion Prayer

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~Sending~

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### Announcements & Special Blessings

#### Benediction

Come out! Jesus commands,

**And calls us from the tombs of our existence into the brightness of a new day.**

Come out! Jesus cries,

**And unbinds us from the chains of our past.**

Come out! Jesus calls,

**And entices us into a world filled with grace and possibility.**

So: Go out! Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!

Go out! Into a world that needs the Spirit of God, carried on our lips and in our loving arms.

Go out! Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!

Go out: and go on the breath of God's holy wind! And may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** #333 (cranberry hymnal) Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to seek justice for all people.

**Thanks be to God.**

~Announcements~

- + **Fellowship:** Join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.
- + **Church Council:** Zion's council will have a work session after worship, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall, to review committee and team structures.
- + **Wednesday Book Club:** The Wednesday Book Club is focusing upon *What if Jesus was Serious – A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore*. It meets at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.
- + **5-Loaves Volunteers Needed:** Our next 5-Loaves deliveries will be on Saturday, March 28. We need help with deliveries that day, as well as with meal preparation on Friday, March 27. Please let Norine Hazen, Terri Watson, or Jo Moss know if you can help.
- + **Palm Sunday:** For our Palm Sunday worship next week, we will gather behind the sanctuary for our processional (those who prefer to begin worship in the sanctuary, please feel free to do so).
- + **Good Friday:** Our traditional Good Friday worship will be at 7 p.m. on April 3.
- + **Children's Choir:** Choir practice is at 3 p.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.
- + **Lenten Soup Suppers:** At 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent, Zion's will share a soup supper and devotion. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall to bring soup, bread, or dessert. Our next soup supper is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25.
- + **Time of Prayer and Coffee:** The Zion's family is invited to join our siblings in Christ from the Methodist church for a time of prayer and coffee at 10:30 a.m. each Thursday at Kangaroo Coffee -- in the Marketplace on Commercial Street.
- + **Temple Aaron:** There are upcoming activities at Temple Aaron to which we have been invited, including March 18 -- Live Klezmer Concert and March 28 -- Saturday night Sedar at the temple. See [info@tampleaaron.org](mailto:info@tampleaaron.org) for details.
- + **God's Work Our Hands:** Terri Watson continues to identify members of our congregation who are willing to help our siblings in Christ with basic assistance, such as rides and errands. For more information talk to Terri.
- + **The Way Ministry:** At 1 p.m. each Sunday through March 29, Zion's welcomes The Way ministry to our Fellowship Hall as they offer food and worship to those in need.
- + **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, call Zion's at 719-846-7785 or send an email: [zionsluth@gmail.com](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com).

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Benediction: *Come Out! On the Breath of God, Service Prayers for the fifth Sunday of Lent*, written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website -- <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>.