

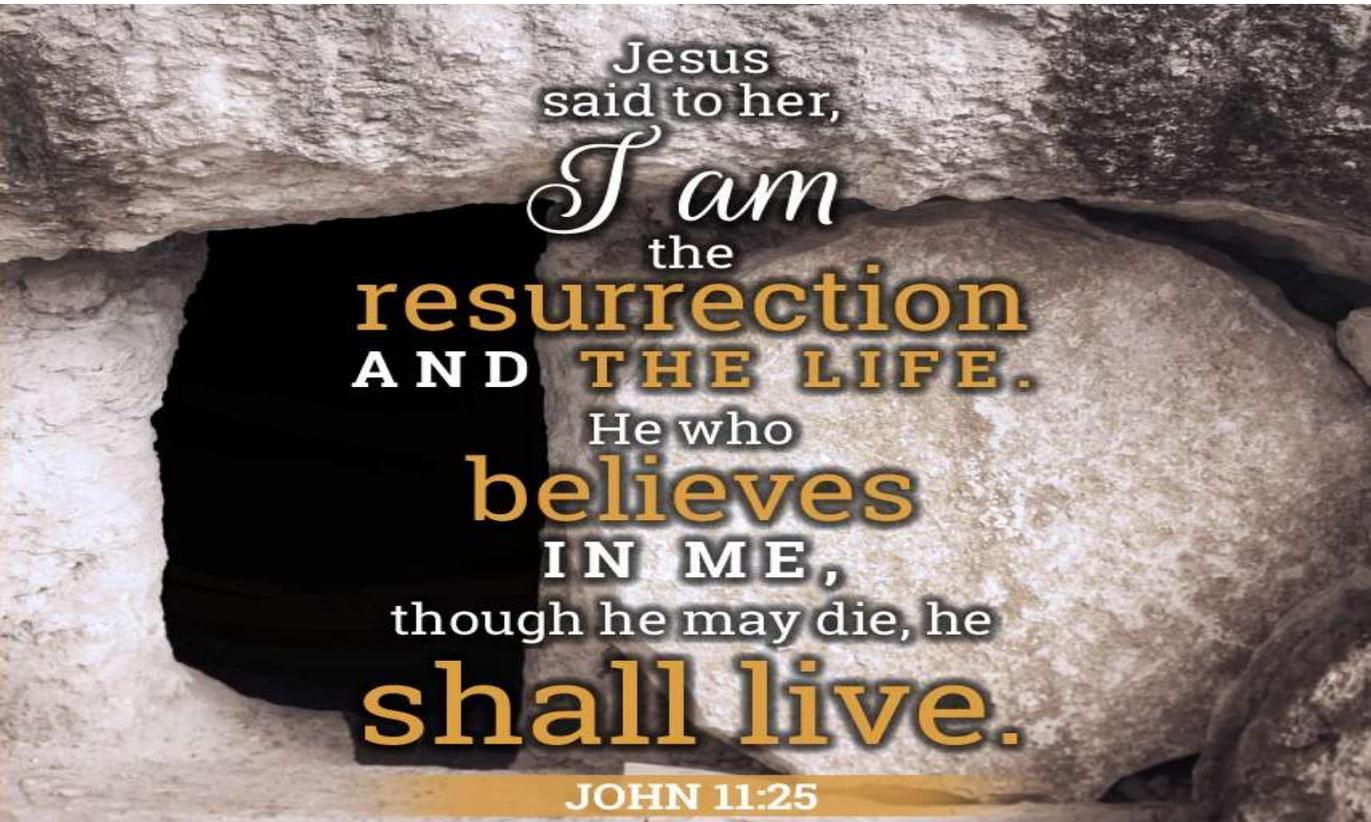


FIFTH  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

March 22, 2026



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor



Out of the depths  
I cry to you, LORD;  
Lord, hear my voice.  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

**Psalm 130:1-2**

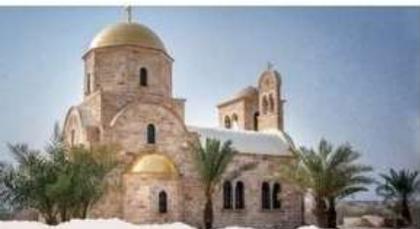
WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



**lcmc**

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



thany



ate's Judgment Hall



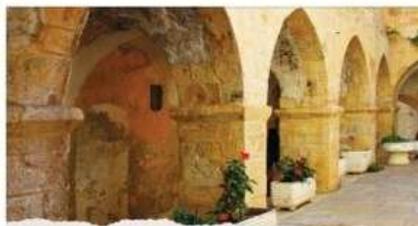
e Mount of Olives



The City of Jerusalem



The Garden of Gethsemane

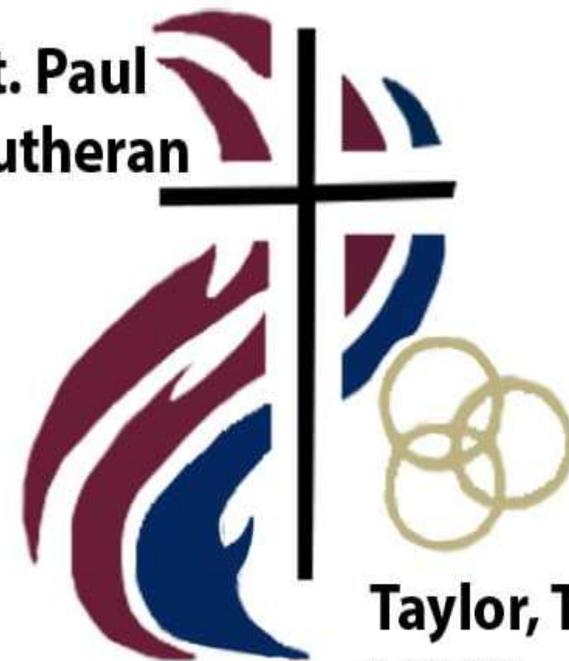


The High Priest's Courtyard

PLACES *of the* PASSION

Wednesdays, February 18 - March 25

St. Paul  
Lutheran



Taylor, TX  
LCMC

*Join Pastor Qualley each Wednesday through March 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the St. Paul House Conference room for a study of the Places of the Passion.*



Monday, March 30 is the deadline for ordering Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday.

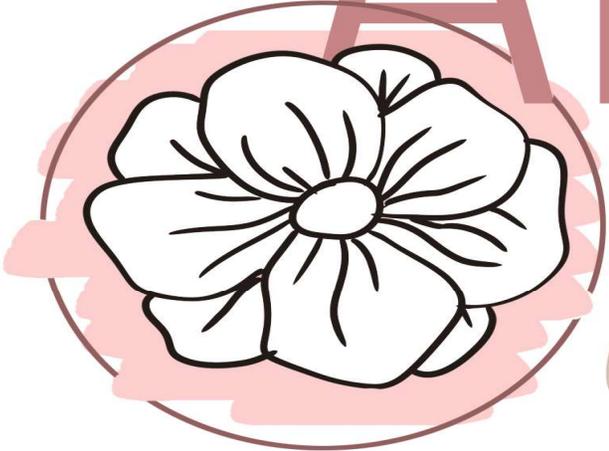
Order forms are available in the bulletin and on our website under the Announcements section.



**lcmc**  
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

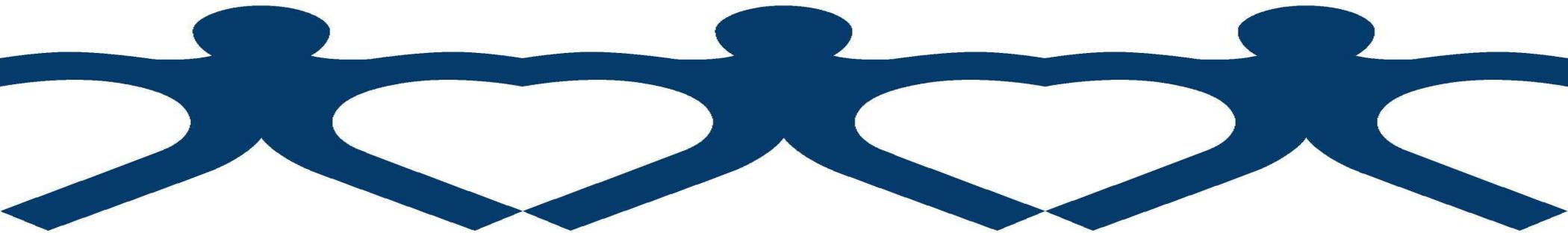
**Brunch will resume  
March 29th**

# ALTAR *flowers*



Altar flowers are placed in honor of  
Cecilia Louise Payne for her 4th birthday  
on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

# Community



## *Service*

St. Paul Lutheran Church will sponsor the Palm Sunday Food Drive for Shepherd's Heart on Sunday March 29, from 4:00-5:00 PM at the St. Paul House Parking lot on the corner of Fowzer and 6th Street. Please bring donations of canned and dried goods, along with monetary donations to assist Shepherd's Heart for their Easter and summer food distributions. Volunteers are always needed at Shepherd's Heart. Please contact Loretta Masters at: [rlscrtmasters@gmail.com](mailto:rlscrtmasters@gmail.com), for further information about Shepherd's Hearts programs and summer needs.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*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.*

## **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.**

## **Gathering Song**

**“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

**Hymn # 886**

**1 Oh, for a thousand tongues  
to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,**

Hymn # 886

**the glories of my God and  
king,  
the triumphs of his grace!**

Hymn # 886

**2 My gracious Master and my  
God,  
assist me to proclaim,**

Hymn # 886

**to spread through all the earth  
abroad  
the honors of your name.**

Hymn # 886

**3 The name of Jesus charms  
our fears  
and bids our sorrows cease,**

Hymn # 886

**sings music in the sinner's  
ears,  
brings life and health and  
peace.**

Hymn # 886

**Final**    **He speaks, and list'ning**  
**to his voice,**  
**new life the dead receive;**

Hymn # 886

**the mournful, broken hearts  
rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.**

Hymn # 886

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**

*Kyrie eleison*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*Christe eleison*

***Christ, have mercy.***

*Kyrie eleison*

***Lord, have mercy.***

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray

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**

*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."*

<sup>1</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 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. <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.**

# PSALM: 130

*I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)*

<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**

*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.*

<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.**

## ***Lenten Acclamation***

***Return to the Lord, your God,  
return to the Lord, your God,  
who is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding  
in steadfast love.***

# GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John 11:1-45

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

*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.*

<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  
SERMON

# **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

# Dry Bones and New Life

Ezekiel 37:1-14



**Hymn of the Day**

**“God Loved the World”**

**Hymn # 323**

**1 God loved the world so that  
he gave  
his only Son the lost to save,  
that all who would in Him  
believe  
should everlasting life receive.**

Hymn # 323

**<sup>3</sup> If you are ill, if death draws near,  
this truth your troubled heart can  
cheer:**

**Christ Jesus rescues us from  
death;**

**that is the firmest ground of faith.**

Hymn # 323

**Final All glory to the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!**

Hymn # 323

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

## **CREED**

*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 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.

**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.**

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 and we remember our friends and family members before you.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionary, for Becky in Nepal, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Friends in Christ Lutheran Church in Sebeka, Minnesota.

Today we also pray for Bethel Lutheran Church in Lyford, Texas and their pastor, Sheryl Carriere. By your Holy Spirit, give them the strength of faith to answer your call to make disciples.

Hear us, O God.

**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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Amen.**

## **Canticle of Thanksgiving**

*Refrain* ***Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb for ever and  
ever.***

***<sup>1</sup> Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.***

***Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?***

*Refrain* **Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and  
ever.**

***2 For you alone are the Holy One,  
and blessed is the one whose  
name is the Word of God.  
All praise and thanks to you, holy  
God!***

*Refrain* **Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and  
ever.**

# **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

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

## **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.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

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 Song**

**“You Are the Way”**

**Hymn # 758**

**<sup>1</sup> You are the way; to you  
alone  
from sin and death we flee;  
all those who search for God,  
you find  
and by your grace set free.**

Hymn # 758

**2 You are the truth; your word  
alone  
true wisdom can impart;  
you only can inform the mind  
and purify the heart.**

Hymn # 758

**3 You are the life; the rending  
tomb**

**proclaims your conqu'ring arm;  
and those who put their trust in  
you**

**not death nor hell shall harm.**

Hymn # 758

**Final You are the way, the truth,  
the life;  
grant us that way to know,  
that truth to keep, that life to  
win,  
whose joys eternal flow.**

Hymn # 758

# **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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FIFTH  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT

