

## Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;  
don't try to figure out everything on your own.  
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,  
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

9:15 AM Worship Express

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz

**Lector:** Ben Foltz

**Acolyte:** Graceyn Millhouse

**Ushers:** Erik & Ben Foltz

**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: "I am the Bread of Life" Toolan/Biery**

### CONFESSION OF SINS

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

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Gracious God,

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

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

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

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

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

**P:** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Stand*

**SONG: "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" #860 ELW**

**Vs. 1: I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me. (3 x)**

**Singing glory hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**Vs. 2: Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. (3x)**

**Singing glory hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**Vs. 3: When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. (3x)**

**Singing glory hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

## **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.**

## **LITANY**

**P:** The word is near you,

**C:** **on your lips and in your heart.**

**P:** If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

**C:** **and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**P:** Faith comes from what is heard,

**C:** **and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

## **SONG OF PRAISE: "Guide My Feet" #987 ACS Vss. 1-3**

**Vs. 1: Guide my feet while I run this race. (3x)  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Vs. 2: Hold my hand while I run this race. (3x)  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Vs. 3: Stand by me while I run this race. (3x)  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** **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.**

*Sit*

## **GOSPEL SONG: "For God So Loved the World" #123 The Other Song Book**

**For God so loved the world  
He gave His only Son  
To die on Calv'ry's tree,**

**From Sin to set me free.  
Some day He's coming back  
What Glory that will be!  
Wonderful His love to me.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

**P:** The Good News according to John the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**Narrator:**<sup>1-3</sup> A man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. This was the same Mary who massaged the Lord's feet with aromatic oils and then wiped them with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick. So the sisters sent word to Jesus,

**Sisters (All): "Master, the one you love so very much is sick."**

**Narrator:**<sup>4</sup> When Jesus got the message, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son."<sup>5-</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, but oddly, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed on where he was for two more days. After the two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."<sup>8</sup> They said,

**Disciples (All): "Rabbi, you can't do that. The Jews are out to kill you, and you're going back?"**

**Narrator:**<sup>9-10</sup> Jesus replied, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in daylight doesn't stumble because there's plenty of light from the sun. Walking at night, he might very well stumble because he can't see where he's going." He said these things, and then announced, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. I'm going to wake him up."

**Disciples (All):**<sup>12-13</sup> **The disciples said, "Master, if he's gone to sleep, he'll get a good rest and wake up feeling fine."**

**Narrator:** Jesus was talking about death, while his disciples thought he was talking about taking a nap.<sup>14-15</sup> Then Jesus became explicit: "Lazarus died. And I am glad for your sakes that I wasn't there. You're about to be given new grounds for believing. Now let's go to him."<sup>16</sup> That's when Thomas, the one called the Twin, said to his companions,

**Disciple Thomas (All): "Come along. We might as well die with him."**

**Narrator:**<sup>17-20</sup> When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead. Bethany was near Jerusalem, only a couple of miles away, and many of the Jews were visiting Martha and Mary, sympathizing with them

over their brother. Martha heard Jesus was coming and went out to meet him. Mary remained in the house. <sup>21-22</sup> Martha said,

**Martha (All): “Master, if you’d been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you.”**

**Narrator:** <sup>23</sup> Jesus said, “Your brother will be raised up.” <sup>24</sup> Martha replied,

**Martha (All): “I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time.”**

**Narrator:** <sup>25-26</sup> “You don’t have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?”

**Martha (All):** <sup>27</sup> “Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world.”

**Narrator:** <sup>28</sup> After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered in her ear,

**Martha (All): “The Teacher is here and is asking for you.”**

**Narrator:** <sup>29-32</sup> The moment she heard that, she jumped up and ran out to him. Jesus had not yet entered the town but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When her sympathizing Jewish friends saw Mary run off, they followed her, thinking she was on her way to the tomb to weep there. Mary came to where Jesus was waiting and fell at his feet, saying,

**Mary (All): “Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”**

**Narrator:** <sup>33-34</sup> When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, “Where did you put him?”

**Jews (All)** <sup>34-35</sup> “Master, come and see,” they said.

**Narrator:** Now Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> The Jews said,

**Jews (All): “Look how deeply he loved him.”** <sup>37</sup> Others among them said, “Well, if he loved him so much, why didn’t he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man.”

**Narrator:** <sup>38-39</sup> Then Jesus, the anger again welling up within him, arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” The sister of the dead man, Martha, said,

**Martha (All): “Master, by this time there’s a stench. He’s been dead four days!”**

**Narrator:** <sup>40</sup> Jesus looked her in the eye. “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41-42</sup> Then, to the others, “Go ahead, take away the stone.” They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven

and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me." <sup>43-44</sup> Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him loose." The Man Who Creates God-Signs <sup>45-48</sup> That was a turning point for many of the Jews who were with Mary. They saw what Jesus did, and believed in him. But some went back to the Pharisees and told on Jesus. The high priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Jewish ruling body.

**High Priest and Pharisees (All): "What do we do now?" they asked. "This man keeps on doing things, creating God-signs. If we let him go on, pretty soon everyone will be believing in him and the Romans will come and remove what little power and privilege we still have."**

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

### **CHILDRENS WORD/WORD**

*Stand*

**SONG OF THE WORD: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me " #325 ELW Vss. 1-3**

**Vs. 1: I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**Vs. 2: In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**Vs. 3: When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**P:** Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?**

**C: 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.**

**P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?**

**C: 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**

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

*A brief silence*

**P: 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.**

**P: 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.**

**P: 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. Hear us,  
O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Amen.**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Sit*

**OFFERING SONG: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" #697 ELW**

**Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee,  
grant it, Jesus is my plea;  
daily walking close to thee,  
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**Vs. 1: I am weak, but thou art strong:  
Jesus keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to thee. Refrain...**

**Vs. 2: Through this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burdens share?  
None but thee, dear Lord,  
none but thee. Refrain...**

### **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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

### **BLESSING**

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

**C: Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: “ O God, Who Gives Us Life”**