

# *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

March 22, 2026  
9:30 a.m. Worship



**Como Park Lutheran Church, ELCA, RIC**

*Reaching out in Christ to a changing world.*  
1376 Hoyt Ave W | Saint Paul, MN 55108  
(651) 646-7127

[www.ComoParkLutheran.org](http://www.ComoParkLutheran.org)





*We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship, community, and faith.*

*We acknowledge and celebrate the rich diversity within and around us. As a community rooted in the body of Christ, we commit ourselves to creating a space where people of all races, ages, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are not only included but deeply valued and seen as essential to our shared journey.*

*Together, we value human diversity as a divine gift and blessing—a reflection of God's boundless creativity and love. Because of this, we commit ourselves in ministry to fully embracing all people and advancing racial equity in our ministry.*

*We recognize that we hold a variety of beliefs, perspectives, and lived experiences; and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together. If you have questions, feedback, or needs for assistance, please ask. We seek to grow together in ministry, community and faith, and we are glad that you are here with us today.*

*~ The People of Como Park Lutheran Church*

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR**  
**will immediately follow the service.**

Please join us for some coffee and light snacks in the Narthex.

This service will be broadcast live on YouTube  
and recorded for later viewing.  
[www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch)

## ADULT FORUM & UPCOMING EVENTS

*(For full list of events, see page 20-21.)*

TODAY Tom Ferry: Hymnody of CPLC Over the Years  
03/25/2026 Holden Evening Prayer: Becoming a Prophetic People  
03/29/2026 Palm Sunday: Understanding the Sacraments  
04/05/2026 Easter Sunday



Regular - Liturgist  
**Bold - Congregation**  
✠ - Stand as able



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### THE GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on “Out of the Depths”

Bohm

#### WELCOME, GREETING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ✠CONFESSIOIN AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

*~ Silence is kept for reflection. ~*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## ✠OPENING HYMN

**Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart**

**ELW 800**

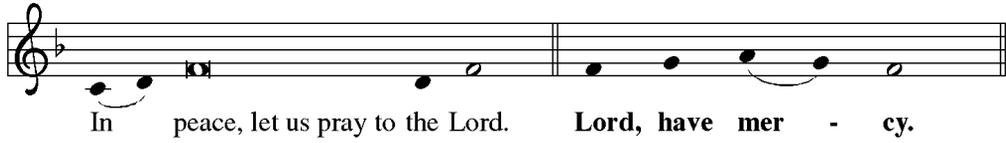
## ✠THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

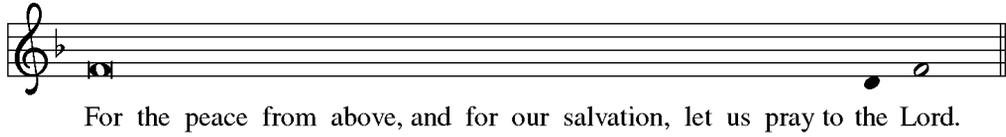
**And also with you.**

✠KYRIE

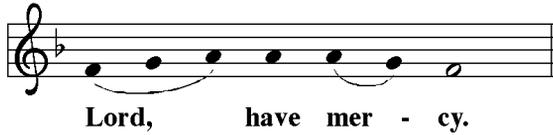
*ELW pg. 138-139*



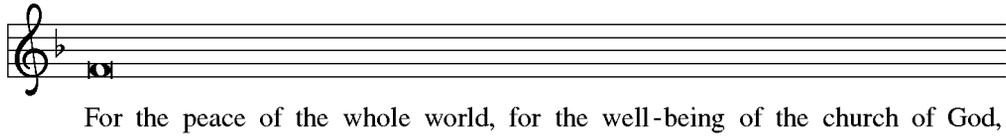
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



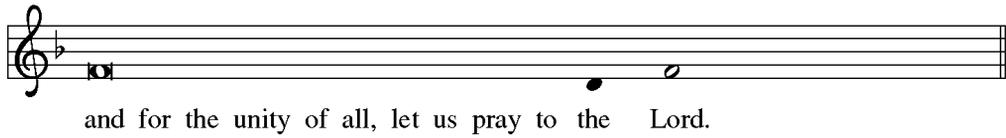
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



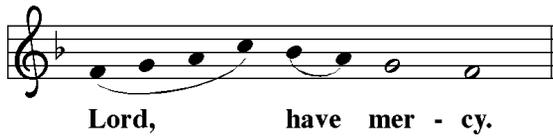
Lord, have mer - cy.



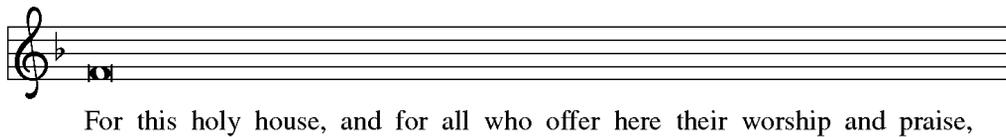
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



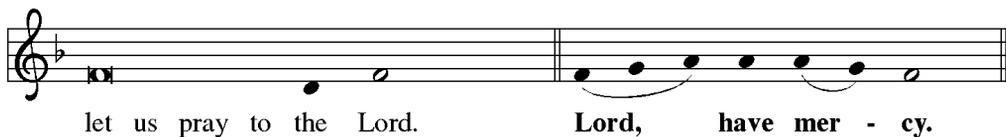
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



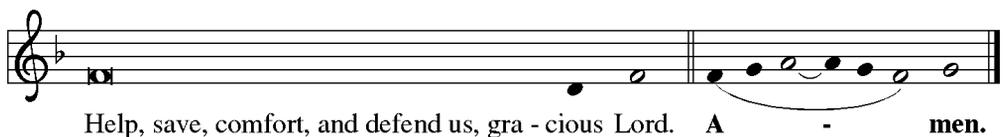
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



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

# ✠GLORY TO GOD

*ELW pg. 139-140*



Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



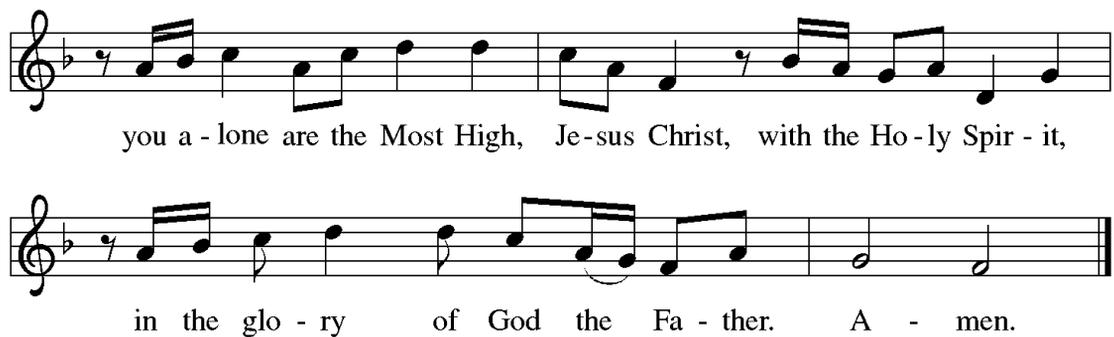
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### ✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
 And also with you.

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.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

<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, 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." <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.**





## **Lazarus Readers Theatre: CEV**

Narrator: A certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This was the Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying,

**Pulpit Side: “Lord, the one whom you love is ill.”**

Narrator: When he heard this, Jesus said,

Jesus: “This illness isn’t fatal. It’s for the glory of God so that God’s Son can be glorified through it.”

Narrator: Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, he said to his disciples,

Jesus: “Let’s return to Judea again.”

Narrator: The disciples replied,

**Piano Side: “Rabbi, the Jewish opposition wants to stone you, but you want to go back?”**

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “Aren’t there twelve hours in the day? Whoever walks in the day doesn’t stumble because they see the light of the world. But whoever walks in the night does stumble because the light isn’t in them.”

Narrator: He continued,

Jesus: “Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up.”

Narrator: The disciples said,

**Piano Side: “Lord, if he’s sleeping, he will get well.”**

Narrator: They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus had spoken about Lazarus’ death. Jesus told them plainly,

Jesus: “Lazarus has died. For your sakes, I’m glad I wasn’t there so that you can believe. Let’s go to him.

Narrator: Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other disciples,

**Piano Side: “Let us go too so that we may die with Jesus.”**

Narrator: When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother’s death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus,

**Pulpit Side: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you.”**

Narrator: Jesus told her,

Jesus: “Your brother will rise again.”

Narrator: Martha replied,

**Pulpit Side: “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.”**

Narrator: Jesus said to her,

Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live,

even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Narrator: She replied,

**Pulpit Side: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world."**

Narrator: After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary,

**Pulpit Side: "The teacher is here and he's calling for you."**

Narrator: When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. He hadn't entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb. When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said,

**Piano Side: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."**

Narrator: When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked,

Jesus: "Where have you laid him?"

Narrator: They replied,

**Pulpit Side: "Lord, come and see."**

Narrator: Jesus began to cry. The Jews said,

**Pulpit Side: "See how much he loved him!"**

Narrator: But some of them said,

**Piano Side: “He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”**

Narrator: Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said,

Jesus: “Remove the stone.”

Narrator: Martha, the sister of the dead man, said,

**Pulpit Side: “Lord, the smell will be awful! He’s been dead four days.”**

Narrator: Jesus replied,

Jesus: “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?”

Narrator: So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said,

Jesus: “Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me.”

Narrator: Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice,

Jesus: “Lazarus, come out!”

Narrator: The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: “Untie him and let him go.”

Narrator: Therefore, many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

**The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.**

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

David Osterhouse

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

# SERMON

Pastor Martin Ericson

## ✧ SERMON HYMN

### O God, Who Gives Us Life

*ACS 1086*



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,  
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

## ✠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

... Lord, in your mercy,  
... **hear our prayer.**

## ✠THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

(In sharing God's Peace we share with each other our hope for God's blessing by shaking hands, or turning to one another and nodding, or bumping fists and saying "God's peace be with you.")

## THE MEAL

### OFFERING

What Wondrous Love Is This

Dobrinski

Joyful Ringers

*Electronic offerings can be made using smart phones and tablet devices by going to [www.ComoParkLutheran.org](http://www.ComoParkLutheran.org) and clicking on the “donate” button. You may also use the giving kiosk in the narthex located by the staircase.*



### ✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### ✠WORDS OF INSTITUTION (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

In the night in which he was betrayed...

... Do this for the remembrance of me.

## ✠THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 11:15)

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

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table. If you come forward and extend your hand, you will be served the bread. A gluten free option is available. If you do not extend your hand, you will be given a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are at the second station, and there is a basket for empty cups as you return to your seat.

**LAMB OF GOD** (John 1:29)

*ELW pg. 146*



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.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**What Feast of Love**

**ELW 487**

**✠POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

## ✠POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### ✠BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

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.**

### ✠CLOSING HYMN

You Are the Way

ELW 758

### ✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

Praeludium in d minor

Bohm

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NOEL Music: English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, public domain

What Feast of Love Text: Delores Dufnes, OSB © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin, OCP

GREENSLEEVES Music: English ballad, public domain

Aus tiefernot schrei ich zu dir by Georg Bohm

Praeludium in d minor by Georg Bohm

*Please pray for...*

Pam B.	Tyler F. (brother-in-law of Ginger F.)
Dorothy E.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Kathy H.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Ann L.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Heather Q.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
Ruth R.	Mary C

... and all in need of prayers

*We welcome names of members, family, and friends on our prayer list.*

✘   ✘   ✘

### **Serving in the Military**

Dane Beecham, Jonathan Lund, Kristian Nelson  
... and all others who serve

✘   ✘   ✘

**We pray regularly for all members and friends of our congregation.**

**This week in worship, we pray for:**

Rosemary Johnson  
Caleb Johnson & Anneke von Seeger  
John & Pamela Jungbauer, John Jr., Sarah  
Geri Jwanouskos  
Alexander & Michelle Kahler, Nicholas  
Scott & Lynn Ketelsen  
Claire Ketelsen

## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

**Pastor:** Martin Ericson

**Director of Music Ministries:** Tom Ferry

## THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

<b>Time</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Esben Lund
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Fay Cushman
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Shirley Dingman
<b>Communion Asst 1</b>	Meg Duncan
<b>Communion Asst 2</b>	Mary Sommerfeld
<b>Greeter</b>	Mary Sommerfeld
<b>Coffee Servers</b>	David & Nahoko Person
<b>Children's Message</b>	David Osterhouse
<b>Reader</b>	Polly Heaton
<b>Liturgist</b>	Emily Purdham
<b>Ushers</b>	Family Team Fischer
<b>Welcome Desk</b>	Rosemary Johnson
<b>Bus Helper</b>	Shirley Dingman
<b>Bus Driver</b>	Lowell Lundy
<b>Video Tech</b>	Ken Purdham

## USHER TEAM

Family Team Fischer: Sadie, Joe, and Pace

# Announcements



## *Como Park Lutheran Church* **CENTENNIAL BANQUET**

Join us as we celebrate 100 years of history, community, and tradition at our Centennial Banquet.

The event will be held Saturday, April 25, 2026, in the Rose Room at the Roseville Oval Skating Complex. Doors open at 5:30PM, with dinner served at 6:00PM.

Tickets are \$25 per guest and must be reserved by April 6, 2026. Tickets can be purchased after services, through the church office, or online via the Donate tab (select “Miscellaneous Fees or Payments” and note “Centennial Banquet” in the memo). There is no limit on group size.

Dinner includes baked ham and roasted turkey (both gluten-free), traditional stuffing, rosemary red potatoes, green beans, house salad, dinner rolls, and dessert.

### **Easter Flowers**

As we prepare to celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 5th, we invite you to help decorate our sanctuary with Easter flowers. Your donation, given in honor or memory of loved ones, is a simple but meaningful way to share in the joy of the resurrection.

If you'd like to give, use the Donate tab on our website and choose “Miscellaneous gifts” noting “Easter Flowers” or “Memorial.”

We're grateful for your generosity and for all the ways you support CPLC.



**MARCH 22, 2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN LENT**



*Jesus' resurrection means new life now.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 11:1-45</b>	<b>The raising of Lazarus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 37:1-14</b>	<b>Valley of dry bones</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 8:6-11</b>	<b>Life in the Spirit</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Romans 8:12-17</b>	<b>Wonderful future of God's people</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Peter 1:1-9</b>	<b>A real reason for hope</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Colossians 3:12-17</b>	<b>New life in Christ</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 130</b>	<b>Trusting the Lord in times of trouble</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 21:1-11</b>	<b>Jesus enters Jerusalem</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* **John 11:25-26 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God of life and hope, we thank you for the promise of the resurrection and the power it brings to us each day through Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for the strength we receive through this food and the faith and hope we receive through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God free you from all burdens and give you peace.



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MARCH 22, 2026

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Christ Is the Life*



## WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you are looking forward to do in the future?
- How does the promise of Jesus' resurrection influence your life today?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* John 11:1-45.

With the story of the raising of Lazarus, Jesus makes it clear that he is not only the source of *"the resurrection on the last day"* (v. 24), but the source of life now. Jesus does not just say he is the resurrection. He says, *"I am the resurrection and the life"* (v. 25). In this story we gain understanding of what it means that Jesus is the *"Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world"* (v. 27). The future hope of the resurrection is so important and so real that it changes our life in the present. Even though Jesus weeps with his friends, grief does not control his—or our—life. Our lives are to be freed from the daily powers of sin, fear, and death. *"Unbind him and let him go"* (v. 44) is the message for us, too. Jesus comes to us when our burdens are many, to unbind us and set us free. Jesus says, *"[E]veryone who lives and believes in me will never die"* (v. 26).

*Discuss:* How does faith in Jesus impact your priorities, your values, your relationships?

*Pray:* **God of resurrection promise, remind us of the new life we are given each day through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help or support someone who is grieving a loss?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the fifth week in Lent, light five of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) has been introduced as a way to pray. This week use this acronym (**ACTS**) as a guide for prayer.

*Pray:* **Dear God, I praise you for . . . , forgive me for . . . , I thank you for . . . , I pray for (name of people or situations) . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

**Please visit the Welcome Desk in the narthex  
if you have any questions about our facility or upcoming events.**

**Adult Forums, Membership Classes,  
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