

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
*Lent*

*First Lutheran Church*

MARCH 22, 2026

**5 LENT**

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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.

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## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

Hamburg

Diane Bish

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

## SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

*The assembly stands.*

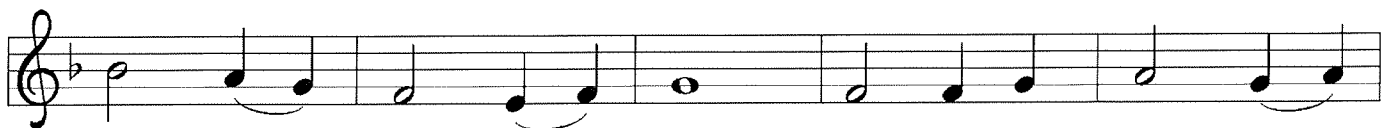
### GATHERING SONG

*WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS*

ELW # 803



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)  
C: **And also with you.**

L: The word is near you,  
C: **on your lips and in your heart.**  
L: 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.**

L: Faith comes from what is heard,  
C: **and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.** (*Romans 10*)

## SCRIPTURE SONG

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to  
Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

*The cantor will sing the verses.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **+ + Children may attend Sunday School**

### **FIRST LESSON**

*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."

*R: A reading from Ezekiel, the thirty-seventh chapter.*

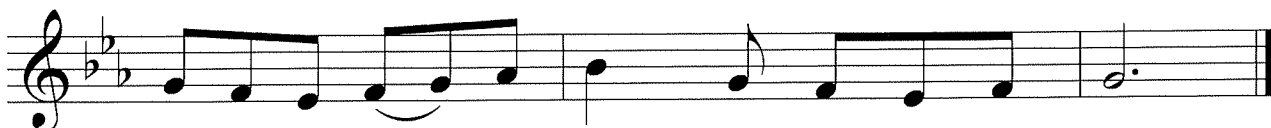
<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, 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."

*R: The word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Mer-cy em-brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

*The cantor will sing the verses.*

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions<sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
and whose sin is<sup>1</sup> put away!
- <sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the LORD im-<sup>1</sup>putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there<sup>1</sup> is no guile!
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with-<sup>1</sup>ered away,  
because of my groaning<sup>1</sup> all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me<sup>1</sup> day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the<sup>1</sup> heat of summer. **Refrain**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-<sup>1</sup>ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."  
Then you forgave me the guilt<sup>1</sup> of my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in<sup>1</sup> time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they<sup>1</sup> shall not reach them.
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve<sup>1</sup> me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts<sup>1</sup> of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that<sup>1</sup> you should go;  
I will guide you<sup>1</sup> with my eye. **Refrain**
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no<sup>1</sup> understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will<sup>1</sup> not stay near you."
- <sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations<sup>1</sup> of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust<sup>1</sup> in the LORD.
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice<sup>1</sup> in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are<sup>1</sup> true of heart. **Refrain**

## SECOND LESSON

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.

*R: A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.*

<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

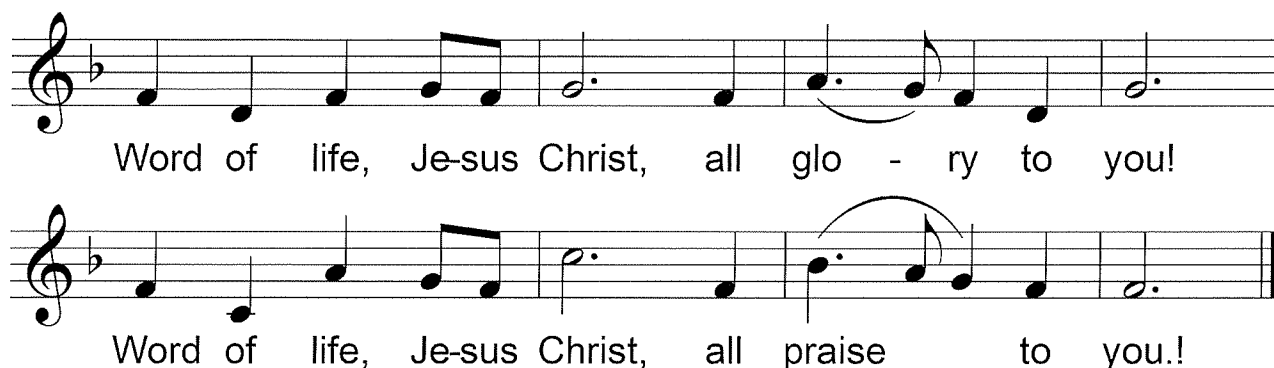
God. <sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <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.

*R: The word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all praise to you!


*The cantor sings the verse.*

### **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.

*P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.*



Glo-ry 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.*

**REFLECTION**

**LAY MINISTER: RICK GREENE**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**JESUS IS A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND**

**ELW # 333**

*Refrain – All*

Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a  
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a  
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain - All' and contains the first line of the melody. The second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The lyrics are printed below each staff. The key signature is G major (one sharp) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and half notes.

*The Cantor will sing the verses.*

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

L: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

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.

**OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION**

*WONDROUS LOVE*

*Dale Wood*

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERTORY SONG**



Glo-ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

L: O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
Your steadfast love embraces all creation.

You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.

Draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly kneels.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

L: 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.

*Each petition concludes:*

P: Hear us, O God.

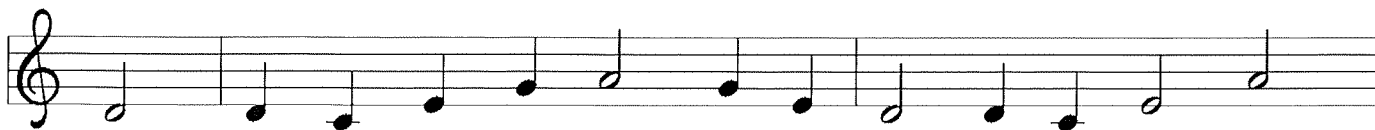
**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*





1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be-neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace.

L: Serve the Lord.

P: Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

WEARY LAND

Ronald A. Nelson

*Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*

## Events in Review



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

## Ordination

First Lutheran Church congregation is invited to Mike Porter's ordination service on Saturday, March 28, at 9:00 a.m. at First Christian Church

## Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	Mar 22
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	Mar 23
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Mar 24
<u>Wednesday</u>	Mar 25
5:45 PM	Lent Supper
7:00 PM	Lent Service
<u>Thursday</u>	Mar 26
1:00 PM	WOFB
<u>Friday</u>	Mar 27
<u>Saturday</u>	Mar 28

<u>Sunday</u>	Mar 29
10:00 AM	Palm Sunday
<u>Monday</u>	Mar 30
10:00 AM	NO Bible Study at Willows
5:15 PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Mar 31
<u>Wednesday</u>	April 1
6:00 PM	Worship & Music Mtg
<u>Thursday</u>	April 2
7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
<u>Friday</u>	April 3
7:00 PM	Good Friday Service
<u>Saturday</u>	April 4

Last Lent Supper & Service this Wednesday the 25th.

Maundy Thursday—April 2 &

Good Friday—April 3 service will be held at 7:00 PM



And Daffodils

Order Forms are available on the hallway table.

They are \$15.00 a piece

Orders are due by March 29th

(Palm Sunday)

Monthly Scroll  
Available on line and on table in hallway

## Contact Us



## First Lutheran Church

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## Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Sandy & Ron Mellott

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera The Rosses

Host

Reader: Jonathan Nominee

Worship Assistant Jonathan Nominee

Director of Music: Curtis L. King

Minister Rick Greene

## Interim Pastor

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

## Emergency Contacts

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GLORIA STACY	419 934-3023
RICK SHOLL	419 939-3436

## Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”

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March 22, 2026