

Contemporary Worship

Unfinished: Called to Regret

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

I Will Rise – Tomlin/Reeves/Giglio/Maher

*There's a peace I've come to know though my heart and flesh may fail.
There's an anchor for my soul. I can say "It is well."
Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed.
The victory is won! He is risen from the dead!*

*And I will rise when He calls my name; no more sorrow, no more pain.
I will rise on eagle's wings, before my God fall on my knees,
And rise...I will rise.*

*There's a day that's drawing near when this darkness breaks to light.
And the shadows disappear, and my faith shall be my eyes.
Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed.
The victory is won! He is risen from the dead!*

*And I hear the voice of many angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb."
And I hear the cry of every longing heart, "Worthy is the Lamb."*

WELCOME

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION *

Mercy on This Fallen World

A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.

The Praise Team sings the refrain and then the Assembly joins in singing the refrain.

The Leader and the Assembly join in prayer and all join in the refrain as indicated.

Refrain



Have mer - cy on this fal - len world. Have mercy on us. Have
mer - cy on this fal - len world, mer - cy Lord have mercy on us.

Leader: Gracious God,

**Assembly: we confess that we bind and entomb others
and that our own lives are marked by grave clothes and tombs.**

Forgive us for our death-dealing ways.

Call us by name.

Unbind us from all that is life-destroying

so that we might live your abundant, resurrected life now.

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Refrain

Leader: God who is rich in mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love
has come to us in Jesus, who by his holy cross has redeemed the world.

Buried with Christ by baptism into death,
our sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name.

Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,
we are raised to new life.

Almighty God strengthen you in faith
to live each day renewed in God's call for your life.

GOSPEL LESSON

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.

A reading for four voices.

The Assembly remains seated for the reading.

One: The Holy Gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

One: A man named Lazarus was sick.

He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha.

This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet
and wiped them with her hair.

Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. So, the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him,

Two: Lord, your dear friend is very sick.

One: But when Jesus heard about it, he said,

Three: Lazarus's sickness will not end in death.

No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.

One: So, although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus,

he stayed where he was for the next two days. Finally, he said to his disciples,

Three: Let's go back to Judea.

One: But his disciples objected.

Four: Rabbi, only a few days ago, the people in Judea were trying to stone you.

Are you going there again?

Three: There are twelve hours of daylight every day.

During the day, people can walk safely.

They can see because they have the light of this world.

But at night, there is danger of stumbling because they have no light.

Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I will go wake him up now.

Four: Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!

One: The disciples thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping,

but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. So he told them plainly,

Three: Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there,

for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him.

One: Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples,

Four: Let's go, too—and die with Jesus.

One: When Jesus arrived at Bethany,
he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days.
Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem,
and many of the people had come to console
Martha and Mary in their loss.

When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him.

But Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus,

Two: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.

Three: Your brother will rise again.

Two: Yes, he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.

Three: I am the resurrection and the life.

Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.

Do you believe this, Martha?

Two: Yes, Lord, I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God,
the one who has come into the world from God.

One: Then she returned to Mary.

She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her,

Two: The Teacher is here and wants to see you.

One: So, Mary immediately went to him.

Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him.

When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily,
they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep.

So, they followed her there.

When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said,

"Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her,
a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.

Three: Where have you put him?

One: They told him, "Lord, come and see."

Then Jesus wept.

The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!"

But some said, "This man healed a blind man.

Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb,

a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.

Three: Roll the stone aside.

One: But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested,
Two: Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.
Three: Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?

One: So, they rolled the stone aside.
Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
Three: Father, thank you for hearing me.
You always hear me,
but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here,
so that they will believe you sent me.

One: Then Jesus shouted,
Three: Lazarus, come out!

One: And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes,
his face wrapped in a headcloth.
Three: Unwrap him and let him go!

One: Many of the people who were with Mary
believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.

One: The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG & PRAYERS *

*The Praise Team sings the Refrain and then all join in the Refrain.
The Prayer Petitions are offered and all join in the Refrain as indicated.*



The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:



all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the



Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life. The

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Leader: Life-giving God, you call your church from death to life.
Renew us in baptism, that we may proclaim Christ with courage...*Refrain*

Leader: Compassionate God, you weep with those who mourn.
Bring comfort to all who grieve, and hope to those in despair...*Refrain*

Leader: God of peace, you call us to unbind one another in love.
Bring an end to war and violence;
guide the nations in justice and peace...*Refrain*

Leader: Healing God, you call each of us by name.
Be with those who are sick or suffering,
and restore them to life and strength...*Refrain*

Leader: Faithful God, you promise that all who trust in you will live.
Keep us in communion with your saints
until we share in everlasting life...*Refrain*

PEACE *

Leader: To those of you joining us from your homes, and those in our sanctuary...
The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: **And also with you!**

*The assembly greets each other with
“peace be with you...and also with you.”*

*You’re invited to share God’s peace with those around you.
If you’re worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.*

OFFERING

Like Him We Rise – arr. Tom Trenney

*As we respond to hearing God’s Word and prepare to feast at God’s table we contemplate the
many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.*

*Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be
used to give our tithes and offering.*



He came down that we may have love...He came down that we may rise.

*“Come unto me,” our Savior said. “Ye weary, come, I’ll give you rest.”
From stable room and manger bed to paradise forever blessed.*

*Made like him, like him we rise! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies;
light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.*

*“Come, all who thirst, be satisfied with water I alone can give.”
Upon the cross, “I thirst,” he cried, conquering death that we might live!*

*“When in the shadow, do not fear. I am your light, your lamp, your sun.”
The sting of death shall disappear. The fight is fought! The battle won!*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *

Leader: We come to the table,
called from death to life by Jesus' word.
Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

Remember Me

(Praise Team)

All: So, we thank You for the wine and for the bread;
For we see the life You gave and the blood You shed.
And we remember Your wondrous love,
You gave Your body, You shed Your blood;
And we remember Your wondrous love,
You gave your body, You shed Your blood.

"Remember Me" words and music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin Nystrom

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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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of
the cups and packaging after the service.*

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Pastor: Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you
Communion Receiver: Amen.

I Am the Bread of Life

Verse 1: I am the Bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger,
And who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.

Chorus: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day.

Verse 2: The bread that I will give, is my flesh for the life of the world,
And if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever.
You shall live forever...*chorus*

Verse 3: Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man,
And drink of his blood, and drink of his blood,
You shall not have life within you...*chorus*

Verse 4: I am the resurrection, I am the life.
If you believe in me, even though you die,
You shall live forever...*chorus*

Verse 5: Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ,
the Son of God Who has come in to the world...*chorus*

*"I Am the Bread of Life" words and music by S. Suzanne Toolan
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

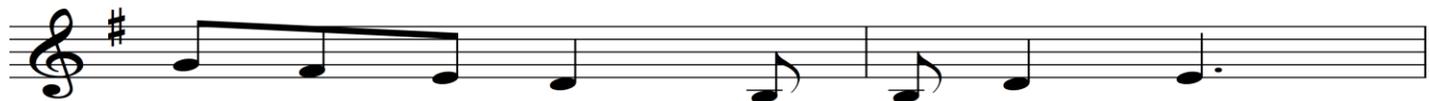
Assembly: Amen.

SONG *

God Sends Us Forth



1. God sends us forth to love and serve,
2. Nour - ished by Christ with word and bread,
3. Called to the ones the world ig - nores—
4. So, with the cross to lead the way,



make known God's name, and live God's word,
burn - ing with love and Spir - it - led,
hun - gry and thirst - y, weak and poor—
let us go forth in peace to - day



mir - ror God's love, re - flect God's grace till
sent to em - brace a world in need, to
let us bear Christ, who heals all pain and
till ev - 'ry end of earth has known the



all have seen the Sav - ior's face.
make God known in word and deed.
com - forts those with guilt or shame.
sav - ing love of God a lone.

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DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.

Help unbind the world and bring it to new life in Christ.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God!**

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

Praise Team

Samuel Owens, Offering Soloist

FLOWER DEDICATION:

The altar flowers are given in memory of the Kastner and Shuster families by Kathy Kastner.

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