

Traditional 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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Arioso from Cantata #156 – J. S. Bach

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

*As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Welcome & Opening Hymn.
A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #339

Christ, the Life of All the Living

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: 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.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

The musical score consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is labeled 'Leader' and the second and third are labeled 'Assembly'. The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' on the first staff; 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' on the second staff; and 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' on the third staff. The Assembly parts are in bold.

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.

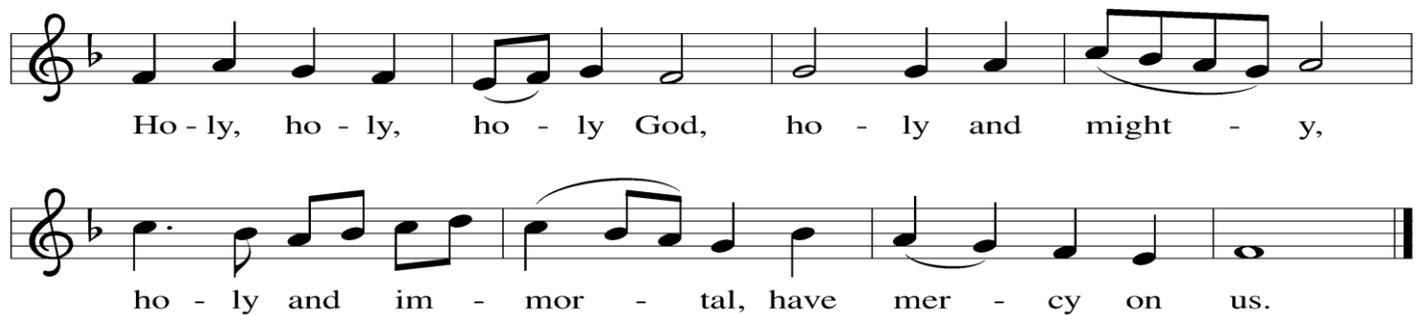
Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,
we are raised to new life.

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

Assembly: Amen.

TRISAGION *

This ancient hymn of the church translates as “thrice holy” and is sung in place of the Hymn of Praise (“Glory to God” or “This is the Feast”) during Lent.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,
ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.

Help us, O God, to give our regrets to you and to go forward today,
confident in your mercy.

Bind up the wounds of our mistakes.

Help us to learn from our regrets

so that we might live more faithfully in each tomorrow.

Forgive us our sins, and raise us to new life today.

In the name of ✠ Jesus,

Assembly: Amen.

HANDBELL MEDITATION (11:10)

Larghetto in D Minor – Michael Mazzatenta

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.”

¹The 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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ 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.”

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy 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.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ 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.’ ¹² 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. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ 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.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 130

The Cantor sings the Psalm Refrain and then the Assembly joins in the refrain.

The Cantor sings the Psalm Verses and the Assembly joins in each refrain as indicated.



I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

² O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

⁴ Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared...*Refrain*

⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶ My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸ For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins...*Refrain*

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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *

Martha, Mary, Waiting, Weeping



1. Mar - tha, Mar - y, wait - ing, weep - ing, bowed be -
 2. Je - sus spoke to Mar - tha's griev - ing, "Res - ur -
 3. Je - sus, res - ur - rect - ed, giv - ing life to



neath the weight of gloom, kept their watch where Laz - 'rus,
 rec - tion, Life, am I! All who hear my Word, be -
 all you name your own: Help us know in hours of



sleep - ing, lay with - in a rock - sealed tomb. Je - sus,
 liev - ing, live with me, al - though they die." Then to
 griev - ing we have not been left a - lone. Come, when



late in com - ing, met them, shed with them com -
 Laz - 'rus' tomb he led them, called their broth - er
 doubt and fear as - sail us; join our jour - ney



pas - sion's tear. Mar - tha, sore with sor - row, charged
 forth by name. Liv - ing, lov - ing, hope ex - ceed -
 toward the grave. There your mer - cy will not fail



him, "He'd have lived had you been here!"
 ing, freed from death, to Christ he came.
 us; there you speak with pow'r to save.

APOSTLE'S CREED *

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "Hear us, O God."

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation."

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: 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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

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 will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using the QR Code.



8:00 – *Like Him We Rise* – arr. Tom Trenney

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!

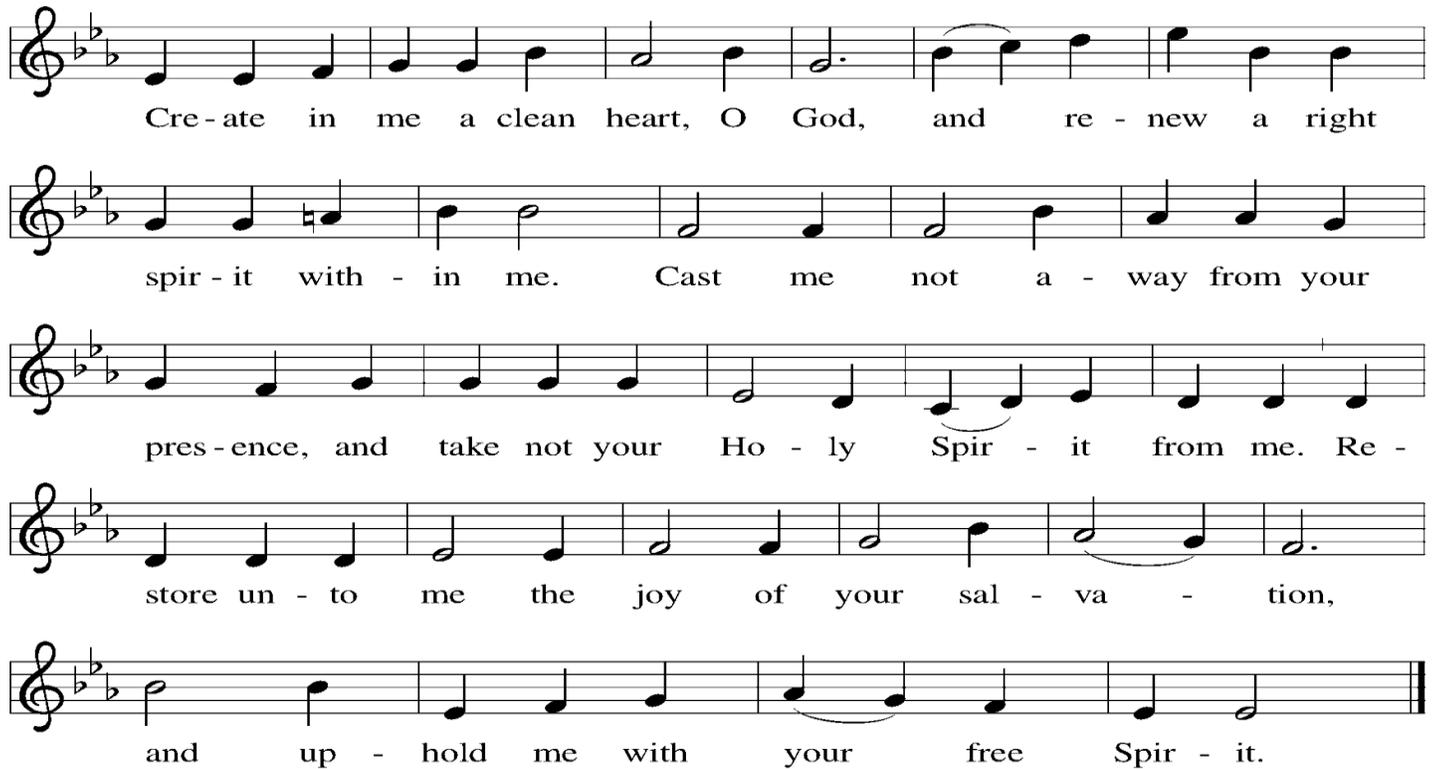
11:00 – *When Jesus Wept* – William Billings

When Jesus wept, the falling tear mercy flowed beyond all bound.

When Jesus groaned, trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

OFFERTORY *

Create in Me a Clean Heart



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
In the midst of death, he calls us to life.
When we were bound by sin and could not free ourselves,
he spoke his life-giving word and called us forth from the grave.
By his tears he shares our sorrow, and by his voice he awakens hope,
that all who trust in him shall live, even though they die.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
 he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
 san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

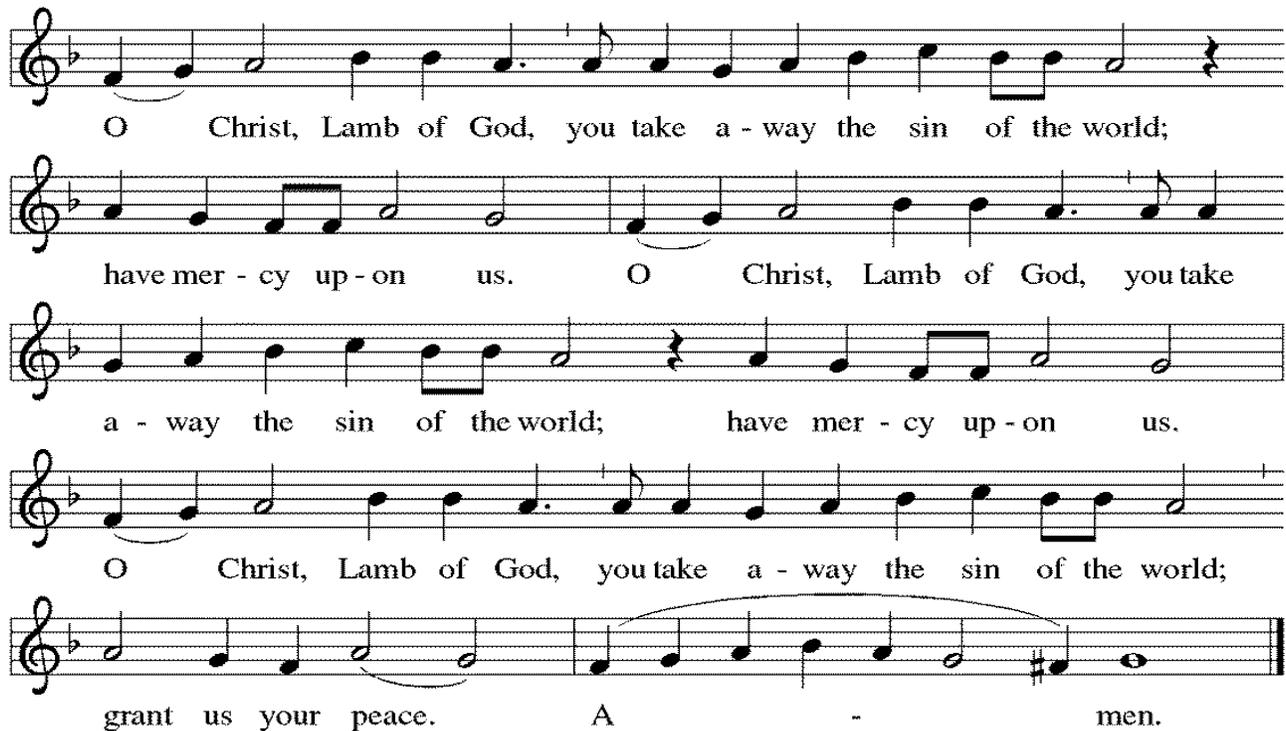
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray as our Lord has taught us...

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

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.

Music at Distribution

8:00 – Organ – *Martha, Mary, Waiting, Weeping* - arr. Wilbur Held

11:10 – Vocal Solo – *Like Him We Rise* – arr. Tom Trenney

See 8:00 Offering for text.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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.**

SENDING HYMN #452 *

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Help unbind the world and bring it to new life in Christ.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *

Fughette on "Christ, the Life of All the Living" – F. W. Zachau

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Carol Davis, 8:00 Lector & Communion Assistant
Carolyn Martin, 11:10 Lector & Communion Assistant
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Samuel Owens, Cantor

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

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

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