

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers – “The Lord’s Prayer,” by Matt Maher

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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 and ordained 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.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” ELW 843 (*organ*)

- 1 **Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**
- 2 **Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
- 3 **Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

**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.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: Holy God, in this season of contemplation, help us to recognize that you revealed yourself in Jesus, who walked among us and was handed over to be crucified. May we be strengthened by his presence among us today.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

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

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

(piano)

1. **How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.**

2. **Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life – I know that it is finished.**

3. **I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart, his wounds have paid my ransom.**

WORD

Reading: Psalm 146

Reader: Barb Davenport

¹Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

²I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* John 19:1-16a

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 19th chapter.

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

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus,

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Song – “Amazing Love” Faith Singers

Sermon: “We Have No King but Caesar”

Song of the Day – “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW 338 (organ)

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.**
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.**
- 3 I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.**

**The 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 of Intercession*

Installation of Council Members

Stewardship Time

“Living Hope,” arr. Phil Wickham
Faith Youth

*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are
communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—*

**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful God,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our
time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake
of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in
glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen

**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.

Communion Songs

“O Come to the Altar” *(piano)*

Are you hurting and broken within? Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling.

Have you come to the end of yourself? Do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling.

***Refrain: O come to the altar; the Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.***

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes. Come today there's no reason to wait.
Jesus is calling.

Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy. From the ashes a new life is born.
Jesus is calling. ***Refrain twice***

Oh what a savior. Isn't He wonderful? Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen!
Bow down before Him, for He is Lord of all. Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

Oh what a savior. Isn't He wonderful? Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen!
Bow down before Him, for He is Lord of all. Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

***O come to the altar; The Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.***

***O come to the altar; the Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.***

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown. Tell the world of the treasure you found.

“The Old Rugged Cross”

(organ)

1. **On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
the emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.**

*Chorus: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.*

2. **O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.** *Chorus*

3. **In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
to pardon and sanctify me.** *Chorus*

4. **To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
it's shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.** *Chorus*

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: 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.
C: **Amen.**

*Sending Song – “Crucified with Christ”

(piano)

*Refrain: I’ve been crucified with Christ. Oh Christ alive in me.
And the life I live, I live by faith in the Son who died for me.
I’ve been crucified with Christ. Oh Christ alive in me.
And the life within my body now’s the life He lives in me.*

**I bring nothing but a heart that’s full of sin and ripped apart and I can’t even make
a start of walking in Your way.**

**But in Your cross Your love I’m given. On Your cross my sins forgiven.
By Your cross new life I’m living, rising ev’ry day. Refrain**

**Help me stand, I’m full of weakness. Help me speak, I’m full of meekness.
Help me shine through all the bleakness, trusting only You.
Without You, I’m just not able. Take me, Lord, up to Your table.
Feed me, fill me, Lord, enable me to follow You. Refrain**

**Crucified with Christ. Crucified with Christ.
Crucified with Christ. Crucified with Christ. Refrain**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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“O Come to the Altar,” Brock, Brown, Furtick, & Joye, ©2015 Elevation Worship Pub. CCLI#973583
“The Old Rugged Cross,” by George Bennard, ©1913 The Rodeheaver Co. CCLI#973583
“Crucified With Christ,” by Michael A. Schmid c/o True Vine Music, © 2004. CCLI#973583

The altar plants are donated today by Sharon Zuiderveld
in celebration of Theodore Zuiderveld’s 9th birthday

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker
Greeter: Lynette Hamilton
Reader: Barb Davenport
Usher: Paul Scheerer
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Susan Roegge



Pianist: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Monica Proefrock & Cory Street

Chancel Committee: Mary Jane Esslinger

Coffee Host: Kim Heise

Singers:

Maddie Crossin	Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street
Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kevin Krohe	Monica Proefrock	Cory Street
Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker	John Williams

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, March 22, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp

6:00pm: Faith Inkubators/Confirmation

Wednesday, March 25, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

6:00pm: Mission Meal in the Great Room

7:00pm: Lenten Service

Sunday, March 29, 9:30am: Palm Sunday Worship **Friends from Faith**

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

1:00pm: Soup Lunch in the Great Room

2:00pm: Lenten Cantata – St. John's Lutheran Church Choir

Wednesday, April 1, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

6:00pm: Easter Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 2, 7:00pm: Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 3, 7:00pm: Good Friday Worship

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

Palm Sunday Cantata — *It Is Finished*

This choral Tenebrae service will be presented by the choir and chamber orchestra of St. John's Lutheran Church from Springfield under the direction of Matt Woodson on Palm Sunday, March 29th. We will have a small luncheon at 1:00pm followed by the cantata at 2:00pm. The luncheon is \$5 and will include soup, sandwich, and a cookie. This very moving cantata will lead us into Holy Week. **We could use some volunteers to help with the luncheon – making soup and cookies, set up/serve/clean up.** Please sign up at the counter by the coffee sales.

Post-Service Discussions

After the service, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library**. We gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We are utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin.

Bible Boot Camp and Faith Inkubators

Pastor Adam is available to lead gatherings on March 22, & April 12 & 19. If others would like to help provide a meal or lead a fun activity, please contact Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, or Celeste Hill on our Discipleship Core Team or **sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area**. Our typical schedule is for Bible Boot Camp from 4:30-5:30, a meal for 15 people from 5:30-6:00, and Faith Inkubators from 6:00-7:30.

Easter Choir

There will be 2 rehearsals at 6:00pm on **Wednesday, April 1 and Friday, April 3** (before the Good Friday service). Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in singing.

Easter Lilies

We have ordered 16 lilies to put in the Chancel for Easter. If you would like to give a lily in honor or memory of someone, please sign up in the Gathering Area and indicate whose life you would like to celebrate. **The cost per lily is \$12** – please put your money in the provided box (checks made out to Faith Lutheran Church noting *Easter Lily* in the memo line). After the Easter worship service, please take your lily home to enjoy.

Spring Altar Flowers for Faith's Gardens

Beginning after Easter, we will be purchasing flowers each week for the altar that will then be planted in our church gardens. If you would like to donate a plant, the cost is \$15, and you can sign up at the podium in the Gathering Area.

Easter Breakfast

Our Easter Breakfast will again be held both before and after worship. We realize that many have plans to gather with family and friends on this day, and an earlier breakfast may work better for your schedule. The men's breakfast crew will serve the meal from 8:00-9:15 before worship and resuming after worship. We could use some donations of Coffee Cake, 2%, Skim, and Chocolate Milk, and Orange Juice – **please sign up at the Coffee Sales Counter**. A free-will offering will be taken for the ministry at Faith.

Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule

Our remaining schedule for midweek worship services this year – **March 25**

Outreach Meal at 6:00 pm

Midweek Worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm

Midweek Worship: “Be Still and Know”

Do you ever need to put on the brakes after a busy day? Do you need a time in the middle of the week to reorient your focus? Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 for our Lenten midweek worship services under the theme, "Be still and know." Psalm 46 reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Our worship will follow Holden Evening Prayer, a beautiful sung liturgy, with scripture and time to pray, reflect, be still, and know that God is God.

Midweek Supper and Worship with “Outreach Meals”

Our Lenten tradition continues with Wednesday night meals and worship, and we will again provide Mission Meals. The meals will not be pot-luck style but will be a provided meal with a free-will offering. Join us for these wonderful outreach meals at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, and all are invited to chip in and help with clean up in the kitchen. Worship will start at 7:00 to make time for all to be ready after the meal.

March 25 - Hillary Waddle and friends support PAWS

"Go. Together!" Synod Relation Trip, April 18, 9:00am – 4:30pm

Join this one-day, synod-wide relation trip (formerly the synod-wide mission trip) to the Champaign-Urbana area, where we will serve neighbors in need and build relationships across our communities of disciples. Projects include work at Sola Gratia Farm, a bike rodeo with St. Matthew's Lutheran, Urbana, work at a clothing distribution center, painting and building projects at St. Andrew's Campus Center, projects with LSSI, and more. You pick your projects when you register! All projects are within a five-mile/15-minute drive of Good Shepherd.

Registration is open at CSIS-ELCA.org/gotogether. **Please register before March 31**.