



**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 22, 2026**      **10:15 a.m.**



*Almighty God,  
Grant your people grace  
to love what you command and  
to desire what you promise.*

**Welcome to Church of the Ascension**

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to  
**Connect** with God and one another,  
**Grow** in faith and understanding, and  
**Serve** the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all  
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded**

# The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

## Welcome

### Prelude

#### “How Deep the Father’s Love For Us”

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 to His glory.

3. I will not boast in anything; no gifts no power 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.

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.

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### ✠ Processional Hymn

#### “Breathe On Me, Breath of God”

Hymnal #508

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will,  
to do or to endure.

4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die;  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch Music: *Nova Vita*, Lister R. Peace

## A Penitential Order: Rite II

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* **His mercy endures for ever.**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence*)

**Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Kyrie Eleison**

“Kyrie #10”

J. Berthier

Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; e - le - i - son; Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. e - le - i - son. e - le - i - son.

**The Collect**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel

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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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.”

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. 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. 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.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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.’ 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. And

you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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.**

### **Psalm 130**

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \* in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

### **The Second Lesson: Romans 8:6-11**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **✠ Sequence Song** "Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on me. Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on me  
Melt me mold me fill me use me. Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on me

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### **The Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.** Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair;

her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 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." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 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. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "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?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

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." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 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. 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." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 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."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### Sermon

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

### ✠ The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### The Prayers of the People

*Celebrant:* In this holy season of repentance, as we wait upon the Lord who calls the dead to life, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Intercessor:* For the Church throughout the world; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Bishop, and for all clergy and lay ministers; that the Church may proclaim the hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation and for all nations; for Donald, our President, for Congress and the courts, and for all in authority; that those entrusted with leadership may seek wisdom and justice and work for the peace and well-being of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peoples of the Middle East and for all places wounded by war; for the injured, the grieving, and those driven from their homes; that the God of mercy may comfort the suffering, protect the vulnerable, and guide the leaders of nations toward reconciliation and lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Lianne, Stacy, Bill, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Liz, Karen, Scott, Drew, Mary, Steve, Rick, Danny, Darrell, Cathy, Reed, and those we now name silently or aloud (*pause*); that Christ, who wept at the tomb of his friend and called him forth to life, may bring healing and hope to all in need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the lonely, the hungry, and the forgotten; that as we wait upon the Lord in this holy season, we may be instruments of his mercy and signs of his redeeming love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week – Susan, Mary, Kevin, Charlie and Colleen – and for all the quiet blessings of daily life; that they may recognize God's faithful presence and give thanks for his many blessings, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection; that they may rest in peace and rise in glory, and that we may hear with them the voice of Christ calling us forth to life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* Gracious God, whose Son is the resurrection and the life: breathe upon your people the breath of new life, strengthen us in hope, and bring us forth from every darkness into the fullness of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Peace:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

### **Birthday and Anniversary Prayer**

**O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

## **The Celebration of the Holy Communion**

*Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.*



### **Offertory**

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”  
Handbell Choir*

arr. Lloyd Larson

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise  
 him a-bove ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.  
 Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: Old 100th

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

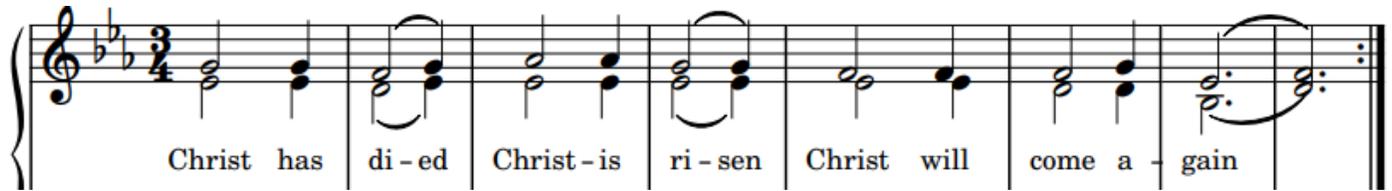
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly,  
 10 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. \_\_\_\_\_ Hea - ven and  
 18 earth are full, \_\_\_\_\_ full \_\_\_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
 he who comes \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_  
 27 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke

it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."



Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**



### The Breaking of Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.  
 Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.  
 Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:  
 give us your peace, give us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

**The Communion of the People**

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.*

**Communion Music**

**"The Table"**

1. I will feast at the table of the Lord  
 I will feast at the table of the Lord  
 I won't hunger anymore at His table

3. There is healing at the table of the Lord  
 There is healing at the table of the Lord  
 Oh and I won't suffer anymore at His table

2. There is peace at the table of the Lord  
 There is peace at the table of the Lord  
 I won't worry anymore at His table

4. I'm invited to the table of the Lord  
 I'm invited to the table of the Lord  
 He says come just as you are to His table

**Chorus:**

Come all you weary come and find. His yoke is easy His burden is light.  
 He is able. He will restore. At the table of the Lord

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**✠ Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Prayer Over The People**

*During the season of Lent, in place of a final blessing, the presider offers a Prayer over the People.*

Bow down before the Lord our God. *The people bow.*

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

**“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

**Hymnal #686**

1. Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mercy  
never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by  
flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! O fix  
me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm  
constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee; prone to  
wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I  
love; here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

2. Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy  
help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a  
stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to  
rescue me from danger, interposed his precious  
blood.

Words: Robert Robinson  
Music: *Nettleton*, Gerre Hancock

## **The Dismissal**

Let go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>March 22</b>	<b>March 29</b>
Worship Leader	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Choir, Handbell Choir	Choir
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	David and Ellen Anderson
Lector	Barbara Sears	Roberta Gore, Betsy Reinders, Chris Nusbaum, Olivia Carpenter
Acolyte	Ellen Anderson	Kat Dittrich
Worship Slides	Jeanne Cox	Jeanne Cox
Chalicians	Sandy White, Kim Tompkins, Betsy Reinders, Susan Considine	Sandy White, Kim Tompkins, Betsy Reinders, Susan Considine
Audio Visual	Travis Collins	Allison Lord

**March Altar Guild:**

Kim Tompkins, Charlie Aler, Beverly Baker, Helen Lang

**Attendance - March 15**

8:00 am - 34    10:15 am: In-person - 58    YouTube - 2    Facebook - 4    **Total: 98**

**Readings for Next Sunday: Palm Sunday - A**

Isaiah 50:4-9a    Psalm 31    Philippians 2:5-11    Matthew 27:11-54

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The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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