

# *5th Sunday in Lent*

*March 26, 2023*

Lent is the time of preparation for Easter, when we are asked to focus on changing our lives through prayer, penance, and love. The color purple suggests repentance and solemnity.



*Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)*

*10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134*

*“Celebrating and sharing God’s Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others”*

*Worship 9:00 a.m.*

*Bold type indicates Congregational responses*

## ***Introduction***

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. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God’s unfulfilling promise in our baptism.

## ***Prelude***

## ***Announcements***

## ***Ringling of the Bell***

**\*Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

† forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**Amen.**

**\*Kyrie**

**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men

**\*Prayer of the Day**

L: 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. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Choir Anthem** “Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul” ..... Shelton Love

**First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

L: 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."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm: Psalm 130*

L: Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

**O LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

**in order that you may be feared.**

I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

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

O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

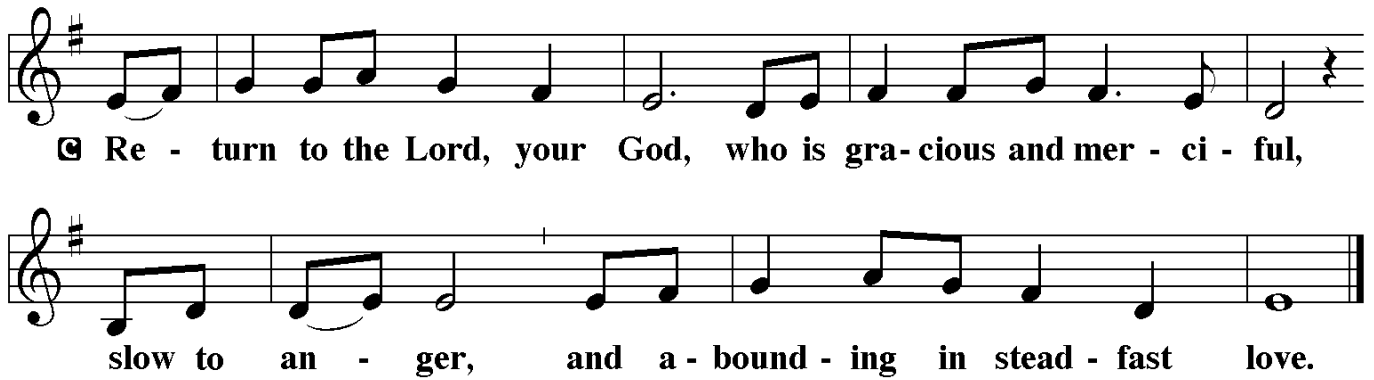
**For the LORD shall redeem Israel**

**from all their sins.**

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**\*Gospel: John 11:1-45**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Sermon** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Hymn of the Day: "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land"** ..... ELW 333

### ***\*The Apostles' Creed***

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 of Intercession***

L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**



You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. We especially pray for those on our prayer lists and the names of those we lift up to you in our hearts now...Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

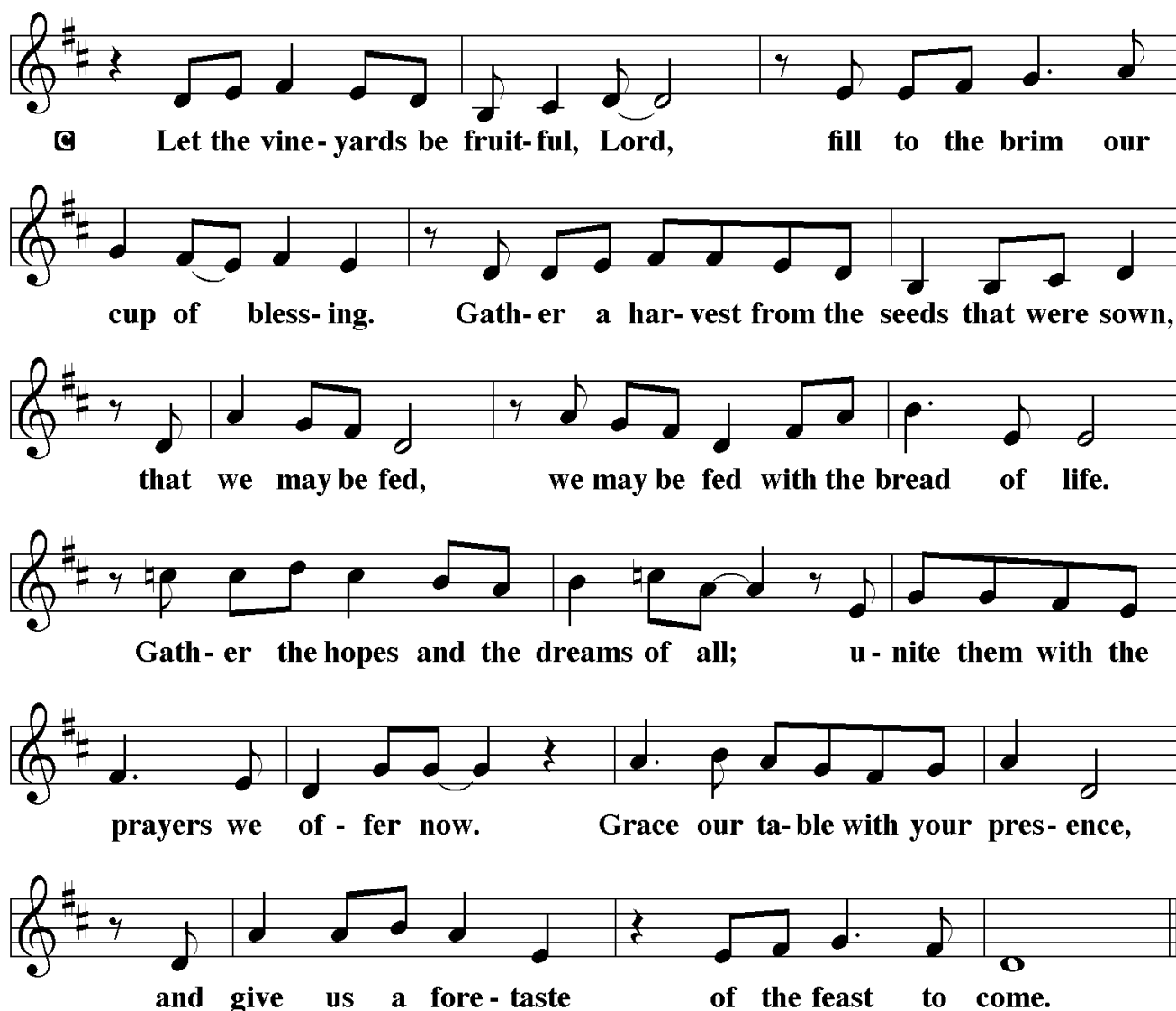
*Please be seated.*

### **Offering**

L: We are called to reflect on how we are giving back to God for all the blessings God has given us. This includes continuing to financially support the church and its mission, along with considering how we might be called to give and use our time and talents to further God's kingdom here on earth.

*Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or may be given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar.*

## Offertory



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our  
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the  
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,  
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### *\*Offertory Prayer*

P: Let us pray.

Merciful God,

**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.**


## **\*The Great Thanksgiving**



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



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



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

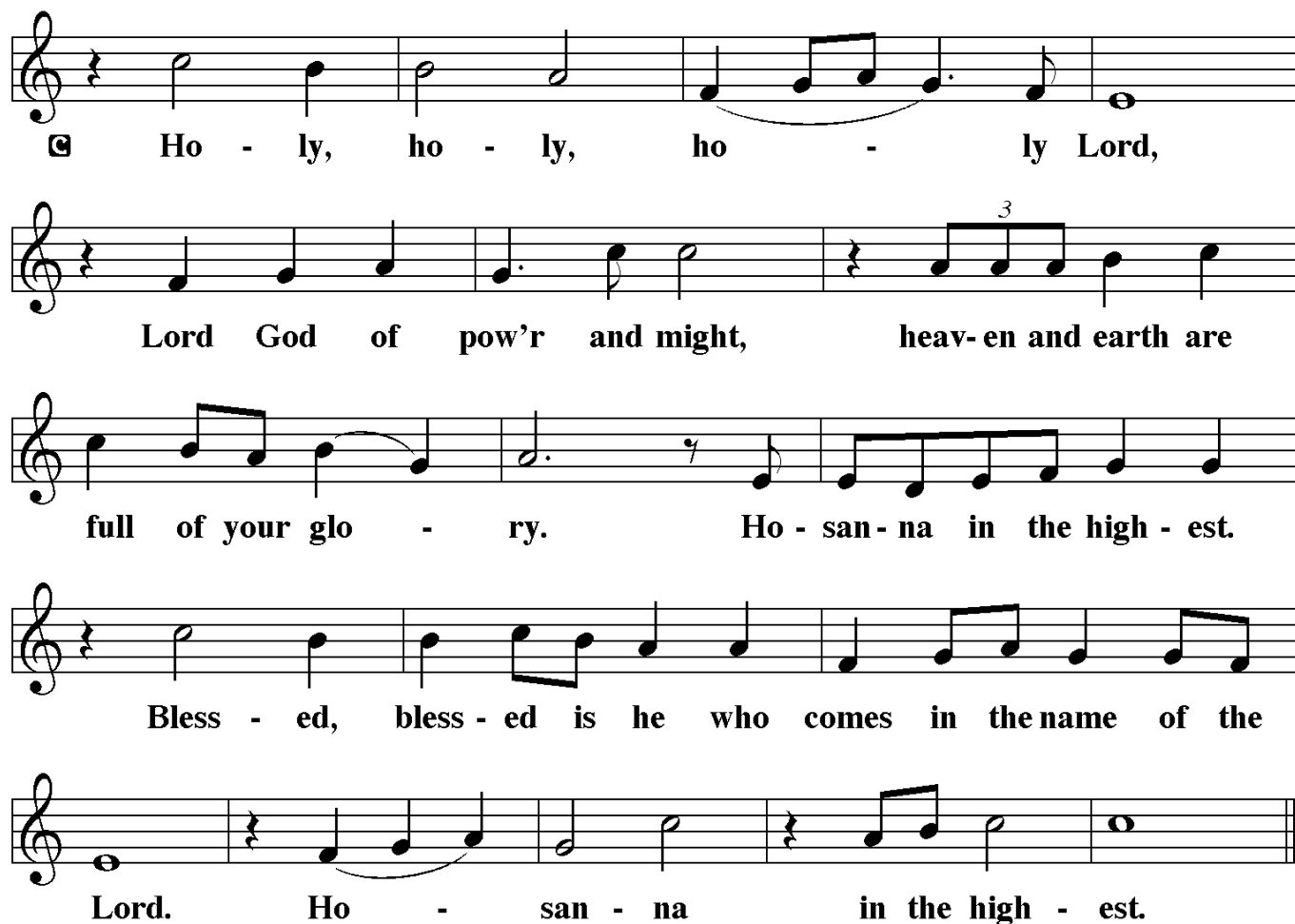


**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## **\*Words of Institution**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Holy, Holy**



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

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 Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Communion Invitation**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome.

### **Lamb of God**



♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **Communion**

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

### **\*Benediction**

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:** “*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*”..... ELW 886

### **\*Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Ringing of the Bell**

## **Postlude**

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2023 Midweek Lenten and Holy Week Theme:  
*“In View of God’s Mercy”*

Lent is a season when we take a look at our lives in view of God’s mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed. Jesus helps us to see the richness of God’s mercy in his life, death and resurrection. Our midweek worship series for Lent by theology professor David Peter focuses our eyes of faith on the meaning behind God’s mercy made manifest in Christ.

\*Wednesday, March 22 ..... “Mercy in Relationships”

\*Wednesday, March 29 ..... “Mercy in Service”

Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9am ..... “Mercy in Palms”

\*Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> ..... “Mercy in Bread and Wine”

\*Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> ..... “Mercy in the Cross”

Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am ..... “Mercy at the Empty Tomb”

*\*All midweek services will be held at 7:00p.m.*

Youth Continental Breakfast offered from 8:15 – 9:00 am and for 30 minutes after the service (10 – 10:30 am)