

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 22, 2026
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688
(937) 298-0136

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 unfailing promise in our baptism.

The Hope of New Life

Hope overcomes despair for God's people: this is the message of the readings for today. The hope of new life is evident in the story of "dry bones" from Ezekiel. The children of Israel declare their hope is lost. The prophet's experience in the valley of dry bones inspires him to preach renewed hope to the people. Psalm 130 sings of hope in God and God's word. The work of God's Spirit gives hope of new life in Paul's letter to the church at Rome. The Gospel of John tells the hope-filled story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. The gospel gives us encouraging words to sustain us through the approaching despair of Christ's passion and brings us to the fulfillment of hope on Easter. Martha's wistful words to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here. . . . But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him" (John 11:21-22), reflect the hope of God's people in the face of despair, even in the face of death.

Each text encourages hearers to hope in God and God's word. How do Christians experience unfulfilled hope? This is the challenge for those who interpret today's texts for hearers. Israel's woes are not at an end; other psalms tell of struggle and pain; the Christ-believers at Rome are persecuted; Jesus who raises Lazarus from the dead soon dies. And yet hope is fulfilled as Paul proclaims "all Israel will be saved" (Rom. 11:26). Psalm 46 sings of God's presence in time of trouble. A preview of the hope of the resurrection will sustain believers in these final days of Lent (John 20:17). The Christian's confidence in the resurrection of the dead epitomizes their hope in Christ.

*** indicates to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Mallory Morris

CALL TO WORSHIP

“What Wondrous Love Is This”



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

**** OPENING LITANY**

Return to the Lord your God,
for God is gracious.

Confess to the Lord your God,
for God is merciful.

Repent to the Lord your God,
for God is slow to anger.

Praise the Lord your God,
for God abounds in steadfast love.

**** GATHERING SONGS**

“The Wonderful Cross”

(Verse 1)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

(Verse 2)

See from his head, his hands, his feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

(Refrain)

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find
That I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross!
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless your name.

(Verse 3)

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love — so amazing, so divine —
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

(Refrain)

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find
That I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross!
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless your name.

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your
prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,
I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth

Chords: G, C, D, C, G, C, D, C, G, C, D, C, G, C, Dsus, D, G, C

to show the way, from the earth to the cross,
 my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave,
 from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

“Holy Forever”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

A thousand generations falling down in worship
 To sing the song of ages to the Lamb,
 And all who've gone before us
 And all who will believe
 Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.
 Your name is the highest,
 Your name is the greatest,
 Your name stands above them all;
 All thrones and dominions,
 All powers and positions,
 Your name stands above them all.

(Refrain - All)

**And the angels cry, “Holy.”
 All creation cries, “Holy.”
 You are lifted high, Holy,
 Holy forever.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
If you walk in freedom and if you bear his name,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
We'll sing the song forever and amen.

(Refrain - All)

**And the angels cry, "Holy."
All creation cries, "Holy."
You are lifted high, Holy,
Holy forever.**

**Hear your people sing, "Holy,"
To the King of Kings "Holy."
You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.**

(Music Ministers)

Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all;
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

(Music Ministers / All)

**Jesus, your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all;
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.**

(Refrain - All / Music Ministers)

**And the angels cry, "Holy."
All creation cries, "Holy."
You are lifted high, Holy,
Holy forever.**

**Hear your people sing, "Holy,"
To the King of Kings "Holy."
You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.**

You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.

**** CONFESSION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

**** FORGIVENESS**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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."

A reading from Ezekiel, the thirty-seventh chapter.

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, prophecy, 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 prophecy 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

I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

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.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

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, then the body is dead because of sin, but 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 Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

** GOSPEL READING

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.

The holy gospel according to John, the eleventh 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.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Mallory Morris

**** 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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
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**

Assisting Minister

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

"I Need Thee Every Hour"
by Annie S. Hawkes and Robert Lowry
arr. John Ness Beck
Angie Seltzer, soprano
Chancel Choir

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine can peace afford.
I need thee, oh, I need thee; every hour I need thee!
Oh, bless me now, my Savior; I come to thee.

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

** GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**
Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**
Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

** WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his

disciples 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.”

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

**** LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

**** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table.

Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.

For those communing at home or in the pew:

COMMUNION — *Receiving the Lord’s tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

Each person may respond: Amen.

Communion Statement ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Assisting Minister

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**** SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

**** BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

** SENDING HYMN

"I Am the Bread of Life" (verses 1, 4 & 5)

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and . . .
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of God, who have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Refrain

All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day.”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the Good news.

Created, saved and gifted by God,

we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

Sunday, March 22, 2026

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of San Salvador, martyr, died 1980

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression.

He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.