



# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday *in* Lent

*"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."*

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**March 26, 2023**

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

**A Warm Welcome** to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and increase your desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

***Visitors**, if you are worshipping with us today,  
we are glad to have you with us. Please join us again soon!*

*(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)*

**KEY:** ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),  
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

\* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

**Prelude Music**

**“How can I be free from sin?”  
“Christ, Be Our Light”**

**W&P #65  
ELW #715**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡**

**Welcome Song:**

**“We Have Come Into His House”**

**OSB #249**

**1. We have come into His house  
gathered in His name  
to worship Him.**

**We have come into His house  
gathered in His name  
to worship Him.**

**We have come into His house  
gathered in His name  
to worship Christ the Lord,  
worship Him, Christ the Lord.**

**2. So let's lift up holy hands,  
and magnify His name,  
and worship Him.**

**So let's lift up holy hands,  
and magnify His name,  
and worship Him.**

**So let's lift up holy hands  
and magnify His name  
and worship Christ the Lord  
worship Him, Christ the Lord**

**3. So forget about yourself,  
and concentrate on Him,  
and worship Him.**

**So forget about yourself,  
and concentrate on Him,  
and worship Him.**

**So forget about yourself,  
and concentrate on Him  
and worship Christ the Lord  
worship Him, Christ the Lord**

**4. He is all my righteousness,  
I stand complete in Him,  
and worship Him.**

**He is all my righteousness,  
I stand complete in Him,  
and worship Him.**

**He is all my righteousness,  
I stand complete in Him,  
and worship Christ, the Lord  
worship Him, Christ, the Lord.**

**\*Confession of Sins and Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.*

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.**

**Song of Praise**

**"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"**

**ELW #335  
vv. 4**

**4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river.**

***Refrain***

**In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.**

**\*Greeting**

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.**

## **\*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.**

## **‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

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

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>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."

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>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.' <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>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**

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths  
I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, hear my voice!**

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**Yet with you is forgiveness,  
in order that you may be feared.**

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

<sup>6</sup>**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

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

<sup>8</sup>**For the LORD shall redeem Israel  
from all their sins.**

## **Epistle Reading: Romans 8:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>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.**

**\*Lenten Verse:**

**“Return to the Lord”**

**Jay Beech**

**Return to the Lord, your God,  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
Who is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

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

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>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." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." <sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." <sup>28</sup>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." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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."

<sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>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." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>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." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>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."

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

*Response after the gospel reading:*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Kids Sermon:**

**Angie Hinze**

**Sermon:**

**PMA Bill Huelle**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡**

**Song of the Day:**

**“Lead Me, Guide Me”**

**W&P #84**

*Chorus:* **Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r  
to help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Chorus***



2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Chorus*

3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy light to see.  
Lord just always let me thy servant be.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Chorus*

**\*Profession of Faith: 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 the Church:**

*(Sung Prayer Response)*

**W&P #27**

I cast all my cares upon you;  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.  
And anytime that I don't know what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon you.

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another)*

### **Offering**

**Offertory: “He Is My Peace”**

**Choir**

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts, let us pray... God of good gifts,  
**receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the  
sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour  
out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
Amen.**

### **‡HOLY COMMUNION‡**

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **\*Words of Institution**

*(The Words of Institution are spoken by the pastor, ending with... “now and forever.  
Amen.” The congregation responds by singing the refrain from “In the Singing”)*

**“In the Singing”**

**ELW #466**

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the wine of grace;  
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the bread of peace.**

## The 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.

## Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

## Distribution of Communion:

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.

*(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.*

*WHITE GRAPE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.*

*Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)*

## Distribution Song:

"I Am the Bread of Life"

ELW #485

1. "I am the Bread of life.

You who come to me shall not hunger,  
and who believe in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

### *Refrain*

"And I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day."

2. "The bread that I will give  
is my flesh for the life of the world,  
and if you eat of this bread,  
you shall live forever, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

3. "Unless you eat  
of the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink of his blood,  
and drink of his blood,  
you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*

4. "I am the resurrection,  
I am the life.  
If you believe in me,  
even though you die, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

5. Yes, Lord, I believe  
that you are the Christ,  
the Son of God,  
who have come into the world. *Refrain*

**\*Post-Communion Blessing**

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

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.**

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

**\*Benediction**

God, the giver of love,  
‡ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.  
**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:** "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

**ELW #886  
vv. 1,3&6**

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

**3. The name of Jesus charms our fears  
and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears,  
brings life and health and peace.**

**6. To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.**

### **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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### **In Our Thoughts and Prayers†**

**Prayers for healing:** **Elnora Sell, Vicki Schmidt** (health issues), **Jan Van Newkirk, Wes Sell, Susan Martin** (recovering from a fall), **Linda Spomer** (healing/pain from broken back), **Lee Saip** (recovering due to an infection—Wes & Elnora’s son-in-law), **Perry Crom** (health issues-nephew of Shirlie Schuldies), **Willard Rusch** (recovering from a fall—Becca Pierce’s father), **Neal Blomenkamp** (recovering from heart surgery), **Catherine Rahrs** (blood clots—Val Rahrs’ mother), **Paul Bueide** (recovering), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

**Prayers for comfort and safety:** **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit’s son and Jim & Sheila Miller’s grandson).

**H A P P Y**  
**B I R T H D A Y**

Eric Dorn, 3/27; Carmen Kleager, 3/27; Shawna Payne, 4/1; Dave Holdt, 4/2

*If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.*



**YOUR GIVING ONLINE**

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website:  
[www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org) and click on the  
**Give Online** button OR download the **Vanco Now**  
**App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



**MARCH FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED**

**FOOD PANTRY:** Sauces

**BACKPACKS:** Fruit Cups

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



**CLCW MARCH MISSION PROJECT:**  
**Food for meals at the Lakota Lutheran Center**

Cash donations will be used to help supplement the food ministry at the Lakota Center. Meals are an important part of community at the Center and extends to a large number of people. Donations may be placed in the tan "*Designated Giving*" envelopes in the pews. Please be sure to mark on them CLCW Project on the envelope. Thank you for your support.



**March 29<sup>nd</sup>**, the meal is @ 5:30 pm  
with worship to follow @ 6:30 pm.

This week is Enchilada Casserole  
sponsored by Social Ministry.



"Healing Mercy" is the theme for our Wednesday evening Lenten services this year. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus willing to reach out and heal those who are hurting and desperate. This series will give us an opportunity to reflect on the stories of Jesus and his power to heal. What in us is hurting and in need of healing this season? Whether it is in body, mind, relationships, or our faith -- we all carry wounds. Join us at 6:30 PM on Wednesday evenings starting February 22, Ash Wednesday. Come in faith, as together we trust that Jesus desires to extend "Healing Mercy" to us all.

### **2023 LENTEN LUNCHES**

will be held on Tuesdays from Noon to 1 p.m. during Lent.

### **SCHEDULE**

**March 28** - First Presbyterian Church  
101 E. 20<sup>th</sup> St., Scottsbluff

Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the hymn  
"Amazing Grace"



### **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP TIMES**

**Worship times for Holy Week  
have changed as follows:**

**Maundy Thursday – 7 PM**

**Good Friday – 7 PM**

**Easter Vigil – 5:30 PM**

**Easter Sunday – 10:30 AM**



## WORSHIP LEADERS

### This Sunday – March 26

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey

**LAY READER:** Shari Copsey

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Vicki Howell

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Deb Brown,  
Marlene Downer

**POWERPOINT:** Mary Jo Huelle

**ACOLYTES:** Jacey Cochran

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

**ALTAR GUILD:** Deb Brown, Vicki Howell,  
Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey

**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** Joan Smith

### Lenten Wednesday – March 29

**LAY READER:** Vicki Howell

**POWERPOINT:** Mary Jo Huelle

**ACOLYTE:** DaKota Newsom

**AUDIO:** *Please sign up!*

### Next Sunday – April 2

**USHERS:** Deb Brown & Vicki Howell

**LAY READER:** Mary Jo Huelle

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Shari Copsey

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Tracy Steele &  
Chris Thomas

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Ayden Tompkins & DaKota  
Newsom

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

**ALTAR GUILD:** Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** *Please sign up!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunday, March 26

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in  
Fellowship Hall

### Monday, March 27

5 p.m. – Parish Ed

### Tuesday, March 28

12 p.m. – Sarah Study

1 p.m. – Quilting

### Wednesday, March 29

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Meal

6:30 p.m. – Lenten Worship

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

### Saturday, April 1

5:30 p.m. – Worship

### Sunday, April 2

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in  
Fellowship Hall



MARCH 26, 2023  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN LENT



*Jesus weeps with us.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of dry bones
Tuesday	Romans 8:6-11	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Hosea 11:1-9	God's love for God's people
Thursday	Isaiah 53:4-12	The suffering servant
Friday	Luke 19:41-44	Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
Saturday	Psalms 130	Trusting in the Lord in times of trouble
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him [Lazarus]!"*  
John 11:35-36 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Loving God, we are in awe of how you grieve with us and conquer sin and death so that we may experience eternal life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Meatime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for coming to us in Jesus, just as your constant love comes to us through this gift of food that gives us life each day. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the steadfast love of God give you peace and joy through Christ our Lord.



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MARCH 26, 2023  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land*



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

- How do you find comfort when something bad happens?
- Jesus cried over Lazarus' death. How does crying help in times of sadness?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 11:1-45.

Jesus' divinity and humanity are on full display in this story. Jesus knows that Lazarus has died. Jesus goes to Bethany to bring Lazarus back to life. Jesus announces, "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" (vv. 25-26). Jesus has power over life and death yet he weeps. Jesus, fully divine is also fully human, and he experiences the pain and sadness of the final enemy, death itself. The Apostle Paul writes of flesh and spirit in Romans 8. For Paul, the flesh is not an earthly matter. Flesh is the power of sin that turns us away from God. The Spirit brings life born of God. Both Paul and Jesus recognize the Holy Spirit and the power of sin and death that remain in our world and in our lives. Sin is not just a personal weakness. It is a power that needs to be vanquished. Because of this destructive power, Jesus weeps. Christ's victory over sin and death is our victory. Christ shares our tears over death, the final enemy to be conquered.

*Discuss:* How does believing in Jesus give you comfort during times of death and loss?

*Pray:* Compassionate God, we give you our thanks and praise that in Jesus Christ you take on our humanity, weep with us, and give us hope by conquering sin and death. Amen.

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you comfort someone who is going through tough times?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week decide where you will donate the money from the Almsgiving Box you have had in your home during Lent. Deliver the money to where it can be distributed to those in need.

*Pray:* Loving God, we thank you for the blessings in our lives. Help us to be aware of those in need and give of our time, money, and care for others in response to your great love. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.



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