

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

## AS WE GATHER

Each Sunday in Lent brings us closer to Holy Week and closer to the foot of the cross. In a sense, we are annual pilgrims traveling on the way of and to the cross. Each year is slightly different from the one that has come before on that cross way. According to the liturgical year in the Church, we are closer today to the death of Christ and His glorious resurrection than we were a week ago. And, according to our earthly lives, we are drawing closer to our own individual death and resurrection. Along this way, we intersect with the cross, which serves as a sign for our lives at all times. May we each be blessed in our pilgrimage!

## PRESERVICE “The Spirit of the Lord” -Talbot

### HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *LSB* 686

1 Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,

Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing,

Call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory

Fills my heart with joy and love,

Teach me ever to adore Thee;

May I still Thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,

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,

Wand’ring from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger,

Interposed His precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor

Daily I’m constrained to be;

Let that grace now like a fetter

Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;

Prone to leave the God I love.

Here’s my heart, O take and seal it,

Seal it for Thy courts above.

4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,

I shall see Thy lovely face;

Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,

How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!

Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;

Take my ransom’d soul away;

Send Thine angels soon to carry

Me to realms of endless day.

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## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 36:5, 7–9*

Pastor: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,

**People: Your faithfulness to the clouds.**

Pastor: How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!

**People: The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.**

Pastor: They feast on the abundance of Your house,

**People: and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.**

Pastor: For with You is the fountain of life;

**People: in Your light do we see light.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**People: Almighty God, merciful Father, we acknowledge our sinful nature and repent of our sins—those of which we are not aware and those we know full well. We do not love You and other people as we ought. For the sake of Jesus grant us Your forgiveness. Amen.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

**People: Amen.**

## BELL CHOIR “Were You There?” arranged by Jason Krug

Pastor: Many Lenten hymns bring us to the foot of the cross in thoughtful devotion. In the Lenten hymn, “O Perfect Life of Love,” author Henry Baker, a gifted English hymnwriter, calls out to Christ on the cross with the words, “O all-atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.” On the cross of Calvary, Jesus finished the work for which He had come into the world and made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Gratefully we sing of His loving grace in the words of “O Perfect Life of Love.”

## HYMN “O Perfect Life of Love” *LSB 452*

1 O perfect life of love!

All, all, is finished now,

All that He left His throne above

To do for us below.

2 No work is left undone

Of all the Father willed;

His toil, His sorrows, one by one,

The Scriptures have fulfilled.

3 No pain that we can share  
But He has felt its smart;  
All forms of human grief and care  
Have pierced that tender heart.

4 And on His thorn-crowned head  
And on His sinless soul  
Our sins in all their guilt were laid  
That He might make us whole.

5 In perfect love He dies;  
For me He dies, for me.  
O all-atoning Sacrifice,  
I cling by faith to Thee.

6 In ev'ry time of need,  
Before the judgment throne,  
Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,  
Thy merits, not mine own.

7 Yet work, O Lord, in me  
As Thou for me hast wrought;  
And let my love the answer be  
To grace Thy love has brought.

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### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Ezekiel 37:1-14* (Life is restored in the valley of the dry bones.) The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon 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 was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, 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, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves

and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 130; antiphon: v. 7*

Pastor: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

**People: Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!**

*Women: O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!*

*Men: If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?*

**People: But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

*Women: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;*

*Men: my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.*

*Women: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.*

*Men: And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.*

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 8:1–11* (Life in the Spirit through Christ) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact 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, although 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 Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 11:1–45* (The sign of the raising of Lazarus from the dead)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the eleventh chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he 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 seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 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. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. 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 also have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for 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 lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with 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 he did, believed in him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Be Still My Soul" *LSB* 752

1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2 Be still, my soul; your God will undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

3 Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart  
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;  
Then you will better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.  
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay  
From His own fullness all He takes away.

4 Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessèd we shall meet at last.  
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#### SERMON "Love, Weep, Resurrect" John 11:1-45

##### I. Who Made That?

##### II. Jesus L\_\_\_\_\_ (v.1-16)

- John uses the word *agape* for love (when describing Jesus' love for His friends).
  - What does that convey?
  - Why does John point this out?
- Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

##### III. Jesus W\_\_\_\_\_ (v.17-37)

- What is Bethany like when Jesus arrives?
- What is Jesus upset about?
  - What does that mean?
- Be still, my soul, though dearest friends depart  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;  
Then you will better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.  
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay  
From His own fullness all He takes away.

- IV. Jesus R\_\_\_\_\_ (v.38-45)
- What is behind Martha's concern that it will stink?
  - Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **“CROSS” REFERENCE LC III 65**

Pastor: In the Large Catechism section on the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther wrote with confidence, “For where God's Word is preached, accepted, or believed and produces fruit, there the holy cross cannot be missing.” His point is not that the cross saves us, but what was done on it: Jesus crucified and risen for us. We see this thought captured perfectly in the familiar hymn, “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed.”

### **HYMN “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed” LSB 560**

1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed  
With healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in Thee my life, my rest,  
Christ crucified, I come.

2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,  
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;  
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,  
Christ crucified, I come.

3 Wash me and take away each stain;  
Let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing, though it be through pain,  
Christ crucified, I come.

4 And then for work to do for Thee,  
Which shall so sweet a service be  
That angels well might envy me,  
Christ crucified, I come.

Text: Public domain

## **OFFERING**

*We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.*

**PREFACE** *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. We give you thanks that in Jesus Christ, our perfect Substitute, You have shown us Your plan for us to live forever. As Jesus proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life," we find in Him the fullness of Your forgiving and limitless love. By the working of the Holy Spirit, grant us grace to grow in faith, remaining steadfast in hope as we await the joys of heaven where we will join in the eternal chorus of angels and archangels giving You unending praise, singing:

**SANCTUS**

Holy holy holy Lord

God of power and might

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes

In the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for all You have done for Your people in Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank You for bringing life out of death through the sacrifice of our Lord to pay the price of our sins. Accept our humble thanks here offered and grant that all who partake of Christ's holy body and blood this day be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. By the working of the Spirit, keep us sanctified in body, soul, and spirit. Give us hearts to rejoice in the fellowship of Your Table and finally may we be granted our places with all Your saints in glory. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your



resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

**PAX DOMINI**

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

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God you take away  
All the sin of the world  
Oh Lamb of God have mercy on us  
And grant to us your peace

*You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "Lamb of God" LSB 550**

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod,  
And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain

ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud,  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain

3 I was so lost, I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod,  
And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain

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“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” -Stuart Townend  
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1. How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

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

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

### **BLESSING**

Pastor: May our Lord’s body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

**People: Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You for the life and knowledge You have revealed to us through Jesus, Your Son. By this Sacrament, strengthen and preserve us. Guide, guard, and rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You here on earth, looking to the final day of resurrection and that time after the end of time when we feast with Christ the Lamb of sacrifice in His kingdom. This we ask through Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

### **HYMN** “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,  
A home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat and the burdens of the day.

2. Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see  
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:  
The wonder of His glorious love and my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

**POSTLUDE** "I Am the Resurrection" -Paul and Betsy Hanson

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GENEROSITY THOUGHTS:** *Romans 8:1* – “*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” This is the joy of the Gospel! There is no condemnation for us before the throne of God because in His love He has provided salvation for us in Christ. We have been set free. We are His children once again, and coheirs with Christ of all the blessings of heaven. If this does not make us thankful, nothing will!

**THE EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN** donation insert in the narthex provides an opportunity to remember departed loved ones and contribute toward the cost of Easter decorations. Complete the slip, enclose it in the envelope provided along with your donation and drop in the collection plate or hand to an usher. Those who wish to pick up their Easter lilies may do so after the 9:30 am Easter service.

**EASTER DECORATING:** It's time to plan for our 2023 Easter decorating. The church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to participate, please sign up on the Easter Decorating Sign-Up Sheet on the table in the Narthex. It should not take more than two hours. If you can spare the time, we would appreciate your help. Let us know if you have any questions. Thank you, Chris and Mark G

**SPRING FUNDRAISER:** We are doing a spring fundraiser through Gertens garden center to raise money for replacing the carpet in the main entrance. Any additional funds will be allocated to other church maintenance needs. This is all done online, where you can place your orders and pay through the website Gertens has set up for us. The ordering period will be from 3/13-4/6. April 6th is a firm date, so please get all your orders submitted by then. This is a great way to buy plants for Mother's Day. Chris G is coordinating this, and will receive a list of all items purchased on the website for distribution. Your orders will be ready for pickup the Sunday before Mother's Day, or 5/7 after church. Our profit is 30% on the plants and 15% on Plant Cards, less the delivery fee. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Chris G. Thank you!

**Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com)**

**Enter the Store ID code 805 in the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'**

**HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR"** on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "Hell: No One Has to Go There" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Hell is a serious word, meant to be taken seriously. However, hell doesn't have to be one's inevitable destination. (Matthew 26:20-29)

**EASTER BREAKFAST POTLUCK:** We hope you and your family/friends can come to the Easter Breakfast potluck which will take place after the Easter service in the Social Hall downstairs. Bring an egg dish, sweet rolls, donuts, fruit, or fruit juice to share. Sign up on the poster in the narthex for what you want to bring and if you can help set up, serve, or clean up. See you there!

**CA 50s-THEMED AUCTION ON APRIL 22:** Concordia Academy invites you to their “Happy Days” Dinner Auction on April 22. Get your letter jackets, white t-shirts, and poodle skirts ready and flash back to the 1950s! Go to [www.concordiaacademy.com/auction](http://www.concordiaacademy.com/auction) to purchase tickets or get more information.

**LWML SPRING RALLY:** St. Paul Metro Zone invites you to the Spring Rally on April 15 at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave, St. Paul. Registration (fee: \$5) and refreshments are at 9 a.m. with the program from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. “A Broom Is a Gift of God” Stories and insights from the mission field with speaker Dr. Richard Carter, missionary to Hong Kong. Gifts from the Heart: Used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries, and items for Phil’s Friends cancer patients (puzzle books, journals, playing cards, fuzzy socks, hats, Walmart gift cards). If you are planning to attend please notify Beth S. by April 10: leave a message at 651-631-8956 or email [stpaulmetrozp@mnsllwml.org](mailto:stpaulmetrozp@mnsllwml.org).

### EMMAUS PHOTO DIRECTORY

Emmaus is having a new photo directory made for our 75th anniversary! To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to <https://ucdir.com/schedule/login.php>

Enter **mn332** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Note: church code and password are case sensitive. Follow the prompts to schedule your family’s appointment time.

**The online scheduling option is not available on the weekends because we will be doing paper sign-ups at church. If you would like to sign up today, please visit the sign-up table in the narthex.**

Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.

### Midweek Services in March

**Lent Lunches at Emmaus:** Following the 11:30 a.m. midweek Lent services at Emmaus in March please join us for a light lunch in the Social Hall, continuing each Wednesday through March 29. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship as we share our Lenten journey.

**Lent Suppers at Bethel:** Bethel Lutheran will be hosting a supper prior to their midweek 7:00 Lenten worship service. You’re invited at 6:15 for a simple catered meal. \$5 per person. Please RSVP by Sunday of each week so we can order the correct amount of food. Email Bethel’s office at [blc@bethelstpaul.com](mailto:blc@bethelstpaul.com) or call 651-300-2642.