

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26th, 2023



FRONT PAGE COVER ART: Watanabe Sadao, *The Raising of Lazarus*, 1967, color stencil print (brush-applied) on momigami paper; katazome-hanga, Bequest of Dr. Francis J. Newton, © unknown, research required, 2009.5.93

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Karen McCumber [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
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**Bulletin by email:** Judy Mason [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\\_TKTi9c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTi9c_OIBbMqGwLw)

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**Prayer:** Almighty and eternal God, because it was Your will that Your Son should bear the pains of the cross for us and thus remove from us the power of the adversary, help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive remission of sins and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Prayer for Turkey and Syria:**

Almighty God, merciful Father, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, and Your ways are not our ways. In Your infinite wisdom which is beyond our understanding, You have permitted this disastrous earthquake to befall the people in Turkey and Syria. Direct all efforts to attend to the injured. Console the bereaved. Protect the helpless, deliver all who are still in danger, and give courage and steadfastness to the relief and aid workers. Bring hope and healing to the suffering that they may find relief and restoration. Open our hearts that we would provide necessary aid to those who are afflicted and distressed by this disaster. All this we ask through the bitter sufferings and death of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You, one God, now and forever.

**Prayer for Ukraine:**

Please continue to remember in prayer our brothers and sisters of the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU).

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Heb. 7: 23-27      Wednesday: John 13: 31-35      Friday: John 11: 47-55  
Tuesday: John 7: 1-12      Thursday: Heb. 10: 1-10      Saturday: Exod. 32: 30-34

**Musician:** Louise Gondosch      **Wednesday:** Carole Pink  
**Reader:** Don Fretz  
**Greeters:** Ralph & Mary Muller

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is held first two Sundays of the month at 9:00 a.m.

**PRECIOUS MOMENTS:** If you or someone you know would benefit from friendly conversation, a time for kids to play & sing; hear a Bible story and make a craft - please join us Tuesdays in the nursery area from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Coffee and tea are always on.

**EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

Today: 9:10—9:40: Confirmation Class  
Monday: 7:30 p.m.: Choir Practice  
Tuesday: 9:30 a.m.: Precious Moments  
Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.: Praise and Pizza  
7:00 p.m.: Lent Bible Study - "Holy Communion Focus"  
Thursday: 10:00 a.m.: SOUL  
6:30 p.m.: Sewing for Haiti  
Next Sunday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>): Palm Sunday

## Review and Renew

### Back to the Basics

#### What We Believe & Why It Matters

Lenten Focus 2023

Wednesdays Feb 22 - March 29 7-8 PM

- 1) Ash Wednesday Simple Communion & ashes - Purposeful praying or praying with purpose? [ Lord's Prayer focus]
- 2) What does "Living Word" mean [10 Commandments focus]
- 3) What happens when I follow God's lead? [ the Apostles' Creed focus]
- 4) Little Christ, little me [Baptism focus]
- 5) How our hearts and mouths align [Confession and Forgiveness focus]
- 6) You are what you eat [Holy Communion focus]

Midweek Lent will have hymns, prayer, Scripture and a Bible Study format message with discussion question time. We meet in the Church Sanctuary.

Holy Week & Easter will be the usual worship services



**Lenten Study Material** will be available, before Ash Wednesday, for all who wish to join.

Ash Wednesday will be a regular church service with Communion and imposition of ashes.

"**Review & Renew**" is a Bible Study which will be conducted by Pastor Todd in the church sanctuary the remaining Wednesdays of Lent

Holy Week will be regular church services.

Join the Fellowship Committee for a "**FREE DINNER**" every Wednesday of Lent, at 6:00 p.m. before the "**Review & Renew**" Bible Study



Wednesday, February 22:	Praise and Pizza
Wednesday, March 1:	Chili at Church
Wednesday, March 8:	Praise and Pizza
Wednesday, March 15:	Soup & Salvation
Wednesday, March 22:	Praise and Pizza
Wednesday, March 29:	Praise and Pasta



### April 2023 Worship Schedule

April 2 - Palm Sunday - [worship & praise team with the choir]

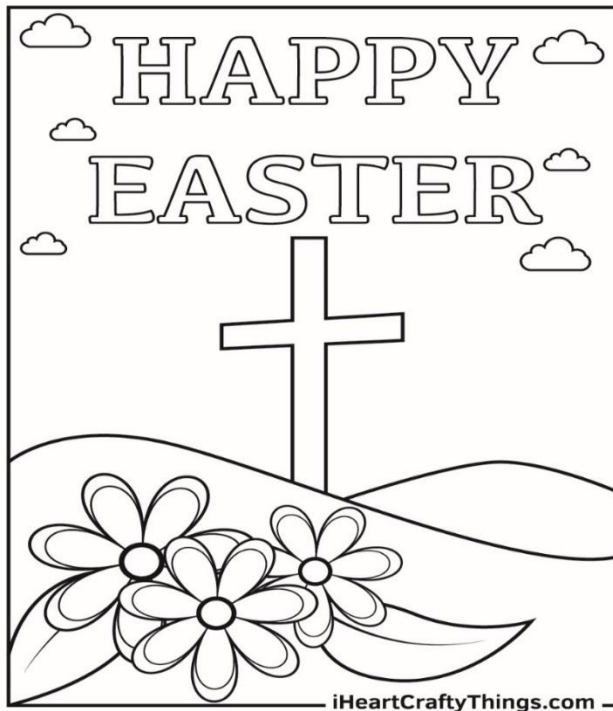
April 9 - Festive Creative Easter Communion

April 16 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Easter Gospel Melodies Service of the Word

April 23 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Easter Communion LSB Setting One

April 30 - 4<sup>th</sup> Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday Morning Praise





## Easter Colouring Contest

Colouring Sheets will be made available in the Narthex starting

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH.

All entries will be put on display.

The following categories:

- ❖ SUNDAY SCHOOL
- ❖ CONFIRMAND AND YOUTH
- ❖ SOUL
- ❖ CONGREGATION

Top winner from each category will receive a gift card.

Winners will be announced at the Easter Breakfast



## Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast

*Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.*

(Immediately following Easter service)

Includes: pancakes, sausages, hot-cross buns, coffee and orange juice.

*a free-will offering will be collected*

It is custom for the men of the congregation to do the cooking and serving, we are once again asking the gentlemen to sign up on forms in bulletin (*also on table in narthex*) for the time most convenient and place it in the offering basket *or place in the envelope on the back bulletin board.*

### **YOUTH & CONFIRMAND EVENTS:**

**Saturday, April 15:** Gravity Rock Climbing. Sign up with Louise to ensure your spot! We will meet there (399 Vansickle Rd Unit 3) at 1:45 pm. Cost is \$21. Everyone under eighteen years old must have a facility waiver signed by their parents ahead of time. Link is here: (<https://app.rockgympro.com/waiver/esign/gravityclimbinghamilton/38b3a821-1992-44d0-a025-9d963f89f103>).

**Saturday April 29:** we will meet at the church at 6:45 p.m. to prep for our Games Night at Luther Manor (7 pm). Let Louise know if you can make cookies, muffins or squares for this event. As always friends are welcome to join us! More information on these April events will be emailed or speak with Louise (905-329-8579)

**MARY MARTHA:** *The following is our Mary Martha Schedule for our Winter/Spring program:*

- April 18: Speaker-Jude Mersereau
- May 16: Bible Study--Pastor Todd (tentative)
- June 10: Potluck

Please feel free to attend any, or all, of our Tuesday night events!  
(If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Mark your calendars for VBS. **In-person VBS** is being planned this summer **Monday, July 17 to Friday, July 21**. The program will run in the morning with an afternoon extended care for Grade 1-6. More information will be coming.

<b><u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u></b>		<b><u>March 26th, 2023</u></b>	<b><u>Attn: 10 a.m. –87</u></b>		
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Weekly Need</u></b>	<b><u>Last Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>Year To Date</u></b>	<b><u>+ or – (--)</u></b>
Current:	297,841.00	5,840.02	3,202.00	49,646.27	(19,086.27)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	377.00	3,087.50	(835.58)
Property Improvement:			201.00	1,407.50	

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS** have been given in memory of John Mewhinney to Christ Lutheran Church by Gloria Meyer, Tim & Elly Reck and Jim Bradley; and to SOUL by Frank & Ivy Parkhouse.

**GREETERS:** A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and we would ask that anyone who is interested in assisting for the coming year to please sign up. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know everyone in the congregation.

**HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED JOINING THE CHOIR?** Do you like to sing? We could always use more voices and would give you a hearty welcome. We will continue practices each Monday evening from 7:30 – 9 pm approximately taking us into Holy Week in April. Speak to Carole if you might be interested.

HOLY COMMUNION  
LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK SETTING ONE  
THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
March 26, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

FIRST HYMN:

"Christ the Life"

www. Hymnary.orgELW



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,  
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN  
87 87 88 77

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:**

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *[Brief silence for reflection]*

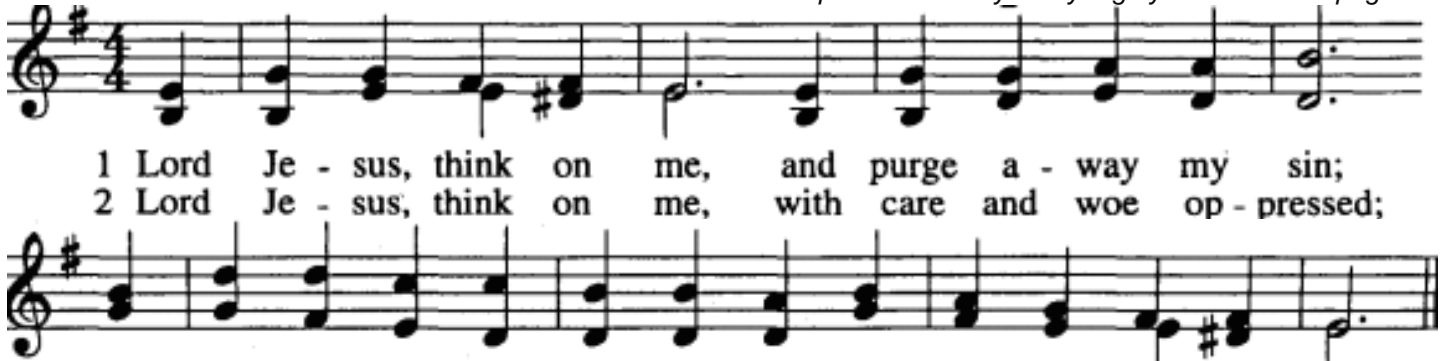
Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**KYRIE HYMN:**

Reprinted: [www.hymnary.org/hymn/WAR2003/page/419](http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/WAR2003/page/419)



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, with care and woe op - pressed;  
from earth-born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.  
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be, and taste your prom - ised rest.

WORDS: Synesius of Cyrene (ca. 375-430); tr. Allen W. Chatfield (1808-1896)  
MUSIC: William Damon's Psalms, 1579

SOUTHWELL  
S.M.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

We pray: Heavenly Father, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be Your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may follow Your way and proclaim Your Kingdom in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**THE WORD**

**Old Testament:** *Ezekiel 37: 1-14*

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 round 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, 'Prophesy 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, 'Prophesy 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.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



**The Epistle:** *Romans 8: 1-11*

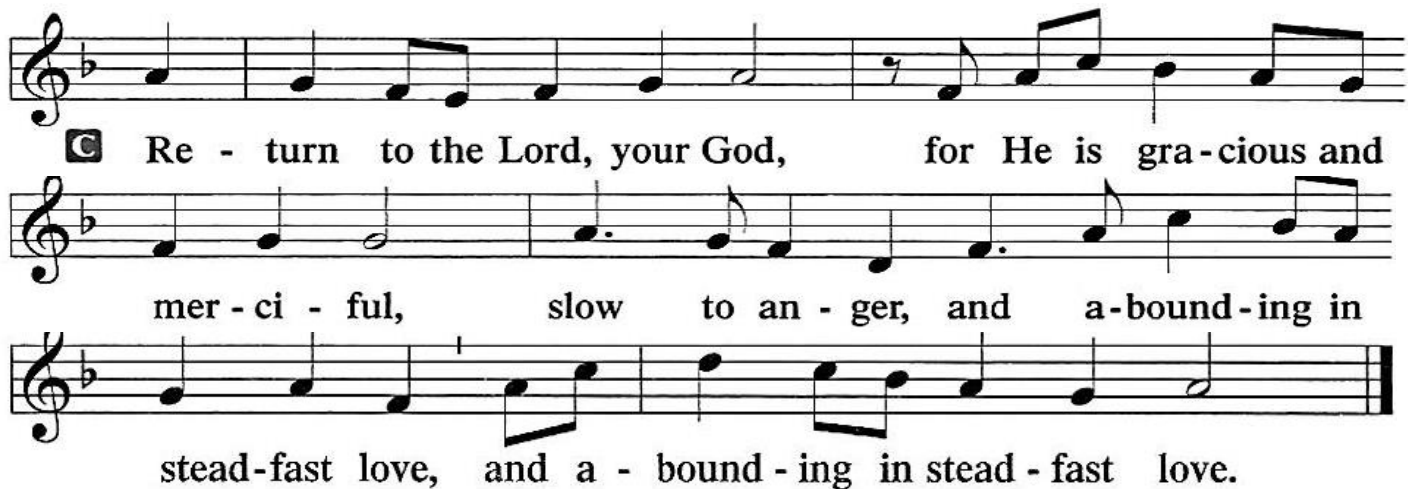
[St. Paul writes:] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just 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 this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SUNG LENTEN GOSPEL VERSE:**

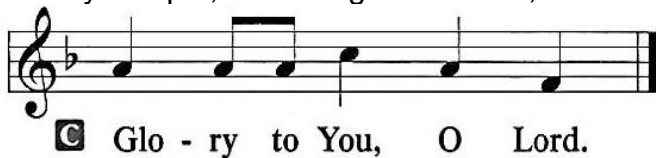
LSB tune # 157



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

**The Holy Gospel:** *St. John 11: 1-6, 17-27, 38-46*

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



Glo - ry 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...When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for 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.'...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 for 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 upwards 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord



 Praise to You, O Christ.

### THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**GOSPEL SONG:**

**“O Christ You Wept”**

John L. Bell and Graham Maula © 1989 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

ROCKINGHAM 8.8.8.8.  
Adapt. Edward Miller, 1735-1807

1. O Christ, you wept when grief was raw, and felt for  
 2. The well - loved voice is si - lent now, and there is  
 3. We try to hold what is not here and fear for  
 4. In all our lone - li - ness and doubt through what we

those who mourned their friend; come close to where we would not  
 much we meant to say; col - lect our lost and wan - d'ring  
 what we do not know; oh, hold our hands in yours, good  
 can - not re - al - ize, ad - dress us from your emp - ty

be and hold us, numbed by this life's end.  
 words and keep them till the end - less day.  
 Lord, and free us to let our friend go.  
 tomb and tell us that life nev - er dies.

<https://www.uccmedina.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/January-8-2023.pdf>

**MESSAGE**

**OFFERINGS** are gathered

**OFFERING HYMN:** “What Shall I Render?”

☞ What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to

me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will

call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:**

*Let us pray to our gracious God, knowing that he listens to us.* Dear Father in Heaven: thank you for the gift of new life that you have given to us through the waters of our baptism. Help us, as your baptised people to daily die to sin and rise to new life with Christ in the power of the Spirit.

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

Relieve all who are coping with sickness, pain, and any who are suffering in mind, body and spirit. Give your peace and patience to those awaiting surgery or to hear the results of medical tests. Support all those we know personally.....

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all those who are mourning the death of a loved one. Comfort them in the knowledge that Jesus has won a victory over death, so that everyone who dies in Christ may have eternal life. Keep us from fearing death, but at times of doubt, help us put our faith in Jesus.

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

As we move close to Easter, help us to live as Easter people who face death in the certain hope of resurrection. Remind us and comfort us every day with your promise that we will be raised up together with all who have died in the faith of Christ.

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

O God our Father, by the cross of Your Son You reconciled the world to Yourself, enabling us to live in love and harmony. We thank and praise You for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help us forgive each other and all others and to establish truth and harmony throughout the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT [Spoken]**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus 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 with all the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

LSB Page 161

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

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name....*

### WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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

### LAMB OF GOD

LSB tune # 163

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

**HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION [Pilgrim style]**

**COMMUNION HYMNS: "Glory Be To Jesus"**

[www. Hymnary.orgELH](http://www.Hymnary.orgELH)

1. Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2. Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3. Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4. A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;

Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins.  
 Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind.  
 Which from end - less tor - ments Did the world re - deem.  
 But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

5. Oft as earth exulting  
 Wafts its praise on high,  
 Angel hosts rejoicing  
 Make their glad reply.
6. Lift we, then, our voices,  
 Swell the mighty flood;  
 Louder still and louder  
 Praise the precious blood!

Viva! viva! Gesù  
 Italian, 18th cent.  
 Tr. E. Caswall, 1814-78

WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN  
 F. Filitz, 1804-76


*"Jesus, Grant That Balm & Healing"*

- 1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
- 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
- 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
- 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,
- 5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your


wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of  
 sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new  
 eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me  
 is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing  
 death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in  
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,  
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.  
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet  
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from  
 Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was  
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -  
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing  
 Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.  
 wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.  
 ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.  
 pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.  
 tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text and tune: Public domain

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**POST COMMUNION HYMN: "Lord, Now You Let Your Servant"**

LSB Page 164



Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -  
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -  
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -  
 veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



25      A                      A/C#      D                      F#7      G                      D                      Bm

How mar - vel - ous      the      grace      that      caught      my      fall - ing      soul.

29                      D/A                      G/A                      A7                      D

He      looked      be - yond      my      fault      and      saw      my      need.

**Verse 2:**      **Through grace we know, the worlds were framed by God above**  
**And through this grace, my soul found liberty**  
**I'll never know, just why He came to love me so**  
**He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.**  
**I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary,**  
**Embrace the cross, where Jesus died for me**  
**How marvelous, His grace that caught my falling soul**  
**He Looked beyond my fault and saw my need.**

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**REV. TODD HOFFFS**

**LENT 5 (series A)**

**Scripture: John 11**

**Title: "He Stinketh, We Stinketh!"**

**March 26, 2023**

Stats Canada reports that about 80 percent of Canadians only attend church services for weddings and funerals.

These are the 2 remaining life events that force people into a religious atmosphere.

Out of 38.25 million Canadians coast to coast, only 1.2 percent are officially Lutheran. That's about 459,000. So about 300,000 of those may only attend a wedding or a funeral in a years' time.

80 percent will experience the joy of wedded bliss and the hope of new life for believers in Jesus coming out of an earthly death. But there's a lot of coping with life in between a wedding and a funeral that only a life lived in Christ could benefit. 80 percent are missing out on words of comfort, hope, renewal and peace. This is why I have made it my pastoral mission

To share messages at these life events that may stir up an interest to check us out.

Come back. Sit down and talk. Try encountering the Living Lord, See what we have to offer, which is Jesus freely flowing. Jesus has been everything from a story teller to bread winner to physician To travelling teacher to miracle worker....He's bigger than life to some, a threat to established rule and order to many. The death of brother Lazarus has devastated Mary and Martha. All they can see is Jesus' negligence over not healing him when they asked.

He prevented others from dying, why not Lazarus? I'm not an avid reader of the King James Version of the Bible, But I love the way they word Martha's response to Lazarus in the grave.

"Lord, by this time he stinketh!" Stinketh?! I love that. I'm sure Lazarus does stinketh.

It's very evident Martha has no clue what Jesus is going to do here. Jesus has a more important, long-lasting treasure to be shared. He makes sure Lazarus is dead 4 days.

The optics shows mourners, a vigil and a meal. Lazarus is a name that means "God helps."

How fitting. He lives in Bethany, a name meaning "house of hurt".

Jesus is going to help one who suffers from hurt. Lazarus represents all those whom Jesus loves, including you, me and all humanity. All of us hurt and Jesus must help. It all "stinketh" much.

That's Martha's criticism of Jesus. This death could be avoided.

With just a 2 second thought Jesus could've healed him. "Oh, we tried that years ago, it didn't work, and we never tried it ever again". Familiar words? We hear them all the time in our church communities. 8 deadly words in any human organization: We have never done it that way before.

That stinketh. It's a death comment. We like things to work and we like them to work easy and be win-win for everyone. That's a great thought but we're not called to be that as the church. Like one of my old recommended used to say: "I can accept change as long as you don't do it."

Change is life. And the ministry is all about coping with change in a Christ-centred manner.

There are countless ways we protest against what the Lord intends to do,

because we don't have the strength of faith or courage to follow Him & find out where He's taking us and how we'll be getting there. A lady I used to visit in my Edmonton parish had downsized her home. From a 3,000 sq ft 2 story walkout to a 1000 sq ft condo

Quite the change. She and her mom collected all kinds of expensive European knickknacks.

She liked to have all of her favourite vases and plates and crystal ware sitting out on every table in every room. All very neat and orderly, but way too many items.

Every single piece had been important to her, cost a lot and because she had it so long,

It held great importance. Sometimes we are like that in the church. Because certain ideas or people or concepts or projects had been important maybe one time decades ago, We still spend our time preserving those needlessly. Jesus may be taking us into many different directions Which will open us up to many different kinds of people with other ideas and other needs And together, we will still follow the same Jesus Because He speaks to us in every time and place. There's no one great era of Christendom on earth.

The church must never be a museum displaying relics and antiques, but a Medi-centre caring for ALL with the medicine of Jesus' Body and Blood And listening ears and helping hands and supportive network of people who love one another as Jesus loves us. He loves us so much He weeps over Lazarus. Dead people make Jesus cry. Lazarus and Jesus are close.

Jesus is human, and death hurts. He feels it deep down so that He can choke death for good. Jesus is also God, and can make all things new. Just so no one can say this is a trick, He makes a few people roll away the grave stone. Lazarus is bound up in death clothing.

Mary and Martha's inner life, like ours, is also wrapped up like a corpse. We all stinketh!

That's all going to change! Jesus calls him out the tomb. The same way and with the same word Jesus calls out demons from hurting people. Unbinding the hands and feet. Jesus is undoing the very thing that can make us get bound up and thrown into the hell fires with Satan and demons For what we've all done wrong. Yet the gloves are off, the tied up hands and feet are free, The death grip is broken, and life is full and rich! This illness does not lead to death; it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (Jn. 11:4). "God's glory" is Jesus' own death on the cross and resurrection. A Living Lazarus shows the hope of new life from the grave, soon to be celebrated and anticipated by all who see Christ as the way, the truth and the life.

This isn't just a miracle that Jesus performed thousands of years ago in a land far, far away.

It's the work of Jesus today. Miracle of healing [Carol and Walter SOUL]

Miracle of breathing. Miracle of second chances and grace and peace and mercy. Because from time to time we still find ourselves bound up and wound up; by the expectations of others, by our own trials, by our own selves. But Jesus only expects trust and faith, which He gives us anyway.

He is deeply moved by us. He brings life to our death, freedom to our bondage, and a shining light to our every darkness. We can also see Jesus' greatest earthly God-like power.

We see Martha recognize Jesus as the "Messiah." We see many come to believe in Jesus.

We see Jesus offer life, and ultimately, we see those in power respond with death.

The religious leaders and political powers feared Jesus' power. He's a threat.

If He gives life freely, no one will need the Temple. Or Herod. Or Synagogue. Or rules.

The Earthly powers filled with fear and jealousy and anger nailed Him to a cross on Good Friday to end His kingdom. Chief priests, Pharisees, Herod and Rome thought the cross they hung Jesus from could break Him and His following. That the tomb they seal him in would keep him.

He Who fills all of the cosmic immense spaces of life Can't be undone by wood and a grave.

Jesus goes to the cross because He IS the life! He does not fear anything, much less death.

And we need not fear anything. In this strange world we find ourselves, with endless viruses and inflation and economic strains, we need something more than just the same old thing.

We need the power of grace. We need resurrection and life. We need Jesus making us into new creations, and a new life to live every day with peace and joy. Jesus isn't standing over us, insisting that we approach everything with human pride, manage our own loneliness with self-help, curb all of our own anxieties, and live without concern. Instead, Jesus desires faith and trust.

If we cling to everything that we expect, if we put ourselves in the driver's seat of our lives,

if we long for what used to be when nothing is going that direction, then this news that Jesus wants only our faith is a threat, because then those expectations of ourselves and our world have to be wrapped up and put in the grave. They're nothing, dead weight on our lives. It's only when the Spirit moves us to admit that we never had any control anyway, if we can confess that we usually in over our heads, then this news that Jesus loves us because we come in faith is a glorious promise. It means that we don't have to be any stronger than we are. It tells us that the moments when we are a mess are in fact moments when Christ comes here and now in ways we can't imagine but enjoy. As Jesus calls Lazarus, He calls us too. As He calls our names through the water of Holy Baptism. And we are re-named as believers in Christ and members of God's Kingdom. And nothing is the same old, it's all made new. As we are new, we walk in new ways, with a new outlook on life, Meeting new people, encountering new experiences. Following Jesus calls us to our pews and into the world. Jesus calls us to love. And that love involves making disciples of Jesus Christ which transforms the world. It can be costly and draining but we all know Christ is with you. The Holy Spirit sustains you. His Holy Meal, Jesus died to create, fills our table with His Body and Blood He lays down, raises up and makes new. And the love-saturated Gospel message of Jesus is the only power that lasts. Life has joys and sorrows, death and life. Beginnings and endings. As long as we are in Christ, we won't STINKETH. Amen.