

Lent 2026

Welcome to Lord of Life!

***All are welcome here. We extend a special welcome to visitors. We're glad you joined us today!
The following information may help you in your worship experience and getting to know Lord of Life.***

Communal words spoken and sung will be on the screen and/or in this bulletin. The bold text is spoken together. Songs/hymns can also be found (with music) in either Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) cranberry hymnal or All Creation Sings (ACS) purple hymnal. Both can be found under a chair near you.

We are grounded in the sacraments of baptism and communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table; there are no exceptions. Our bread is dairy, nut, and gluten-free; wine and juice are both available. If you aren't baptized and would like to be, please talk to Pr. Kirsten.

Children are welcome in this place! At baptism, we celebrate our place in God's family and the community of Lord of Life. Children of all ages are integral members of the Body of Christ, and have a place in our community that includes worship. Children learn by seeing, hearing, and experiencing worship with adults who care about them (not just their parents). We embrace the sounds and activity that accompany them.

We have a few resources for parents:

PrayGround: Table up front with coloring supplies; go with your child, sit near the table, or send them independently. Please, no phones at the Prayground.

Activity Bags: things to occupy busy hands during worship, located in the shelves just outside the sanctuary; ask an usher if you need help finding them.

Nursery (for children 0-5, 5-7 by exception): Our nursery is staffed by a capable young adult who is kind and has been background checked. There is a sign-in sheet for security.

Narthex (Gathering/Entrance space): Benches, rocking chairs, or space to move around.

Children's Message: children are invited up front to engage with part of the message in worship.

Communion: children are welcome to receive the elements or a blessing. Please let the server know your preferences.

There are **Assisted Listening devices** available just outside the sanctuary doors for those that need amplified sound. We also have an Auracast system that allows you to connect to your hearing aids through your phone and Bluetooth connection. Directions are posted on the wall in the narthex / entryway.

Offering is an act of worship and a privilege to return to God a portion of what God has given us. If you are a guest, do not feel obligated to give. Offerings given today are joyfully used for outreach to the greater church/community and for the work and ministry of Lord of Life. You may donate electronically using the QR code that leads you to the website (www.lordoflife.org), by mail, using direct deposit with your bank, or RMD / QCD / or stock gift (in consultation with your financial advisor), or in the offering box at the font.

If at anytime you are uncomfortable standing, you are free to remain seated.

If you are worshipping from home, you are invited to participate, not just observe. Please prepare your own sacred space for worship. You might include some candles, a cross, water for remembering your baptism, and, if you will be participating in Communion, bread and wine or suitable substitutes.

Lord of Life is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

You can learn more at www.elca.org or thelordoflife.org.

GATHERING

We are located on the ancestral homeland of the Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Palouse, Wanapum, and Yakama peoples. We give thanks for their presence and care of this land since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home. Learn more at native-land.ca.

PRELUDE

The people gather for worship. Take a few moments to breathe and center yourself to be present. Please put your device on silent so you can be present and participate.

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We start with words of confession and hearing words of forgiveness at the outset of our worship to remember that we don't need to do anything to receive it. God gives it freely. We confess because we need to—we need to be aware of our sin so that we can receive a word of grace. God already knows, and accepts us anyway. Thanks be to God. Now we get to try again to honor God and the earth and our neighbors and ourselves. We try again to follow the way of Jesus, the way of the cross.

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: 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 our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

We pause in silence to reflect and prepare to face our sin in words of confession.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 neighbors as ourselves. 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Feb. 22 — ELW #334 *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* (add Lent 5 verse at end)

Mar. 1 — ELW #358 *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

Mar. 8 — ELW #322 *Oh, Love, How Deep*

Mar. 15 — ACS #977 *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*

Mar. 22 — *Open Our Lives to the Word* (words and music on p. 14)

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.**

LENT HYMN: ACS #954 *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb And Shepherd*



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

February 22

God of new life, as Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, renew and restore us to new life, leaving in the grave all that prevents us from loving you fully. Amen.

March 1

Holy Lord, Jesus washed the disciples' feet as a sign of service and compassion. Show us how to live and love in service and with compassion, for the sake of all your children. Amen.

March 8

God of forgiveness, you know our offenses before we do, and you still share your meal of love with us. Strengthen our hearts to follow you. When we betray, deny, or scatter like the disciples, forgive our frailties. Bring us the promise of resurrection and new life in you. Amen.

March 15

Holy God, we, like Peter, often turn our backs on you. Forgive us and show us a new way to live, walking boldly and passionately toward you. Amen.

March 22

God of truth, too often we bend truth to fit our needs. Show us how to recognize and follow your truth, shown to us by the love and life of your son, Jesus. Amen.

WORD

All Christian worship is biblical. We follow the Narrative Lectionary (NL), a relatively new approach to reading scripture, created by professors at Luther Seminary in 2010. The NL seeks to provide a narrative arc through scripture, where every gospel gets its own year. There is only one reading; it's not always from the gospels. The NL starts in Genesis, journeys from the prophets to the gospels to the epistles and Acts.

Hearing the proclamation of the Word is central to our worship experience. The Word is proclaimed throughout our worship, in our liturgy, prayers, sermon, hymns, and yes, scripture. You are invited to let go of the need to read along and simply listen, and let the Spirit lead your imagination and inspire your hearing.

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

We're going to end with this refrain:

All: You are a dearly loved child of God!

Children: And so are you!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, ELW Setting 4

The Gospel Acclamation is a high point in our worship, where we get to welcome the reading of the gospel, and rejoice in hearing the good news of God. Often we welcome the reading with words of Alleluia, but we have put the 'A-word' to rest for a season (Lent). We will use it again to welcome the good news of Christ's resurrection, our baptismal rebirth, on Easter Sunday.

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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURE READING

READING OF SCRIPTURE: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The readings are printed in the back of this booklet sorted by date, starting on pg. 15.

Before the reading: The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Feb. 22 — *Lord, If Only You Had Been Here* (words on p. 12; Tune: *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*)

Mar. 1 — ELW #360 *Love Consecrates the Humblest Act*

Mar. 8 — Video: *Song of Judas, or something yet to be determined*

Mar. 15 — ELW #727 *Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth*

Mar. 22 — *When Pilate Questioned Jesus* (words printed on p. 13; Tune: *The Church's One Foundation*)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The creed is both a response to and a proclamation of the word. It is a statement of faith of the whole church. It links us to the ancestors of our faith, the saints, and unites us with the church around the world and people of every nation.

Sometimes we use affirmations of faith written in other places and times. During Lent 2026, we use the creed of the church long ago. The Apostles' Creed is centered in baptism.

When we confess faith in the one holy catholic church, we are confessing faith in the church universal. Catholic ('C') refers to the Roman Catholic Church, whereas catholic ('c') comes from the Greek word 'katholikos' meaning 'universal.'

Let us confess our faith together using the words of 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 INTERCESSION: ACS #1078 *There Is a Longing in Our Hearts*

During Lent this year we are using a hymn from All Creation Sings to articulate our communal prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We proclaim the peace of the risen Christ to each other. You might use hand signals, a wave, a bow, or simply a smile, and say "peace be with you," or similar words.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Feb. 22 – Grace Notes Chime Choir, *The Church's One Foundation*

Mar. 15 – Men of Life, *Sovereign Lord, Creator, Righteous One.*

Tune: Gustav Holst, Words: Mary McDonald. Lorenz Publishing, 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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OFFERING

A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. We offer to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Your financial gifts may be placed in the offering box at the baptismal font, made electronically through our website, sent in the mail, using direct deposit with your bank, or RMD / QCD / or stock gift (in consultation with your financial advisor). Please contact the Financial Secretary with questions.

OFFERING SONG, ELW #330 *Seed That in Earth Is Dying*

This hymn comes from the leading hymn writer in Norway and one of most widely-translated and received in the Nordic countries. Svein Ellingsen. He calls himself a "hymn deacon." In the extremes of wordless situations when people turn to their hymns, he wants his texts to give them the words to express their grief and their joy.

- 1 Seed that in earth is dying grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel turn into golden wine.
God, through this mystery grant us faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death.**
- 2 We were baptized in Jesus, into his death and grave,
to resurrection's promise: praise and eternal life.
Heaven's own praises begin here where you yourself are near us,
deep in our night and death.**
- 3 Seed that in earth is dying rises to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table, give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you! Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death.**

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929
English text © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Glory to you, O God, Love from before the beginning, Word made flesh, Grace upon grace.

You are the great I AM, feeding your people with manna in the wilderness. You gave your son Jesus to the world to be the Lamb, the King, the Son of Man.

You anointed him to be our messiah and teacher. He is the bread from heaven, the fruitful vine, the good shepherd, the gate of protection, our very Lord and God.

On the night that he washed his disciples' feet, he took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With Lazarus we wait in our tomb, we hear you call our name, and we come out from our death into your life. With Mary Magdalene we cry out, **We have seen the Lord.**

Breathe your Spirit of power on us. Nourish us with your living water, and sustain us with the body and blood of your Son. Claim us as your friends. Birth us anew and enlighten our eyes. Unbind us, that as your servants we may unbind one another. **Glory to you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Source of all, the Light of the world, the Advocate for your children. Blessing, thanksgiving, honor, and might be to you forever and ever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Please use the version or language of your choice.

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table, as we receive the presence of Christ for us in bread and wine. This meal is for all regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, criminal record, or list of offenses.

Make your way to the front using the side aisle. There will be bread, wine, and grape juice. A basket to collect used cups is in the center. After receiving the elements, return to your seat by the center aisle. If you have questions when you get up front, it is okay to ask. The bread is gluten-free, nut-free, dairy-free, and full of grace! There is hand sanitizer on the chair at the front if you would like to use it.

The elements can be brought to your seat if making your way to the front is difficult. Simply let the ushers know.

LAMB OF GOD, ELW #198

In John's Gospel, the title Lamb of God is particularly important. These are the words of John the baptizer's testimony about Jesus in John 1:29: Here is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The writer of John's Gospel will make it abundantly clear through shifting the timing of the crucifixion to happen on Passover (instead of the day after as in the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke) so that we see clearly that Jesus is the Passover lamb. Notice that he takes away the sin of the world, not the sins of the world. Jesus takes away all sin, our sinful nature, the sin that holds us captive.

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. O Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Music: Mabel Wu
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MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Feb. 22 — ELW #333 *Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*
Mar. 1 — ELW #708 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*
Mar. 8 — ACS #977 *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*
Mar. 15 — ELW #325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*
Mar. 22 — ELW #349 *Ah, Holy Jesus*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

This prayer recalls the Lenten disciplines in Matthew 6: fasting, almsgiving (acts of charity in sharing of goods or finances), and prayer; and the call to hunger for justice often heard on Ash Wednesday in Isaiah 55. You can find this prayer in your ELW hymnal on p. 65. We end with the prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, "Lord, make us instruments of your peace." You can find this prayer in your ELW hymnal on p. 87.

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread from heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage. May our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Christ, our Lord.** *(continued on next page)*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, **let us sow love;**
where there is injury, **pardon;**
where there is discord, **union;**
where there is doubt, **faith;**
where there is despair, **hope;**
where there is darkness, **light;**
where there is sadness, **joy.**

Grant that we may not so much seek to be
consoled **as to console;**
to be understood **as to understand;**
to be loved **as to love.**
For it is in giving **that we receive;**
it is in pardoning **that we are pardoned;**
and it is in dying **that we are born to eternal life.**
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
with the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, † Savior, and Comforter,
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Feb. 22 — ELW #544 *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*

Mar. 1 — ELW #333 *Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*

Mar. 8 — *Jesus Went Out to a Garden* (words on p. 12; Tune: *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*)

Mar. 15 — *As Jesus Faced the Council* (words on p. 13; Tune: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*)

Mar. 22 — ELW #322 *Oh, Love, How Deep, v. 1, 4-7*

DISMISSAL

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

**Please return this bulletin to the ushers so it can be reused next week,
or keep it and take it for your own devotional use.**

MUSIC NOT FOUND IN HYMNALS

February 22 – Hymn of the Day – *Lord, If Only You Had Been Here*

Tune: ELW #789 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**"Lord, if only you had been here, one I love would not have died."
Martha shared her grief with Jesus in these words she sadly cried.
Jesus said, "I'm resurrection. Martha, do you know it's true?
I'm the life for which you're longing." She said, "I believe in you!"**

**"Lord, if only you had been here!" Jesus heard these words again.
Mary, sitting home and waiting, spoke to Jesus of her pain.
So our Lord was deeply troubled in this world of death and sin.
Sometimes all we see is struggle; death and evil seem to win.**

**"Lord, if only you had been here," we cry out when all goes wrong —
When our grief is overwhelming, when life's troubles seem so strong.
Then, O Lord, we hear your answer: "I am resurrection — See!
Not just in some distant future — I am life! Now live in me!"**

**When we share your resurrection, when we know that you are life,
We find courage for our living in this world of pain and strife.
We your church will work for justice, welcome strangers, help the poor.
Faced with death, we'll be a witness: you are with us, Risen Lord.**

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March 8 – Sending Hymn – *Jesus Went Out to a Garden*

Tune: ELW #777 *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*

**Jesus went out to a garden To a quiet place to pray.
In the night, a crowd came round him, Led by Judas on their way.
They seized Jesus to arrest him; Someone near then drew a sword.
Soon a slave was injured, suffering There beside our suffering Lord.**

**Jesus spoke to stop the violence: "Put your sword back in its place."
Then he touched the slave and healed him In a moment filled with grace.
For as violence leads to violence Causing more distress and pain —
So compassion in abundance Is a witness to God's reign.**

**God of love, we pause and wonder: Did that slave give quiet praise?
Yet the story marches onward With the pain that it portrays.
For the One who brought such healing Soon was broken, on a cross,
To our sinful world revealing Violence has an awful cost.**

**God, the gospels bear a witness: Your Son's death was not the end.
By your grace, you raised up Jesus; Sin and violence did not win.
May we work to end all suffering; Lead us in Christ's peaceful way.
May his peace become an offering That we share throughout each day**

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March 15 – Sending Hymn – *As Jesus Faced the Council*
Tune: ELW #338 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

**As Jesus faced the council, the accusations flew,
Till someone turned and said to him, "Now tell us, who are you?
Are you the Christ, God's chosen one?" He answered them: "I am —
And soon the Son of Man will reign in power, at God's right hand."**

**Nearby, out in the courtyard, next to the fire's warm glow,
The Rock named Peter sat, afraid, not sure where he should go.
He longed for news about the Lord, and so he stayed close by,
But when they asked him who he was, he chose to tell a lie.**

**A servant said, "You're with him! I saw you two before."
Yet once and twice and still again, the Rock denied his Lord.
He said, "I do not understand!" He firmly answered, "No!"
He claimed, "I do not know that man," and then the rooster crowed.**

**O Christ, we are like Peter, for we deny you, too.
Concerned for what the world might say, we do not live for you.
May we (like Peter later on) have courage to proclaim:
"We're bound to Christ. He is our Lord! We'll follow in his name!"**

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March 22 – Hymn of the Day – *When Pilate Questioned Jesus*
Tune: ELW #654 *The Church's One Foundation*

**When Pilate questioned Jesus, he asked him, "What is truth?"
and turned away, for power was all the truth he knew.
Yet truth is more than power, and truth will have a throne;
look back at Jesus' story, let truth be sung and known.**

**Truth is a pregnant woman, surprised by sure, who sings
of God who lifts the lowly, of God who topples kings.
Truth is a baby sleeping on straw, no bed at hand,
a shock, a sign, a myst'ry, (the poor will understand).**

Truth is the bread in deserts, not bought or sold or grown,

the word that God is speaking, no need to feed on stone.

**Truth is a net discarded, a boat left by the sea,
and fishermen who follow, to find what they will be.**

**Truth is a shouting beggard, who finally is heard,
truth is the sight he longed for, bestowed by Jesus' word.**

**Trust is a widow giving the little that is all,
truth is her gift the greatest, those of the rich so small.**

**Truth is the people shouting, "Hosanna to the king!"
and if the crowd were quiet, the stones themselves would sing!**

**Truth is the bread that's broken within a borrowed room,
truth will be scorned and buried, but won't stay in a tomb.**

Words © 1994 Hope Publishing Company

March 22 – Gathering Hymn – *Open Our Lives to the Word*

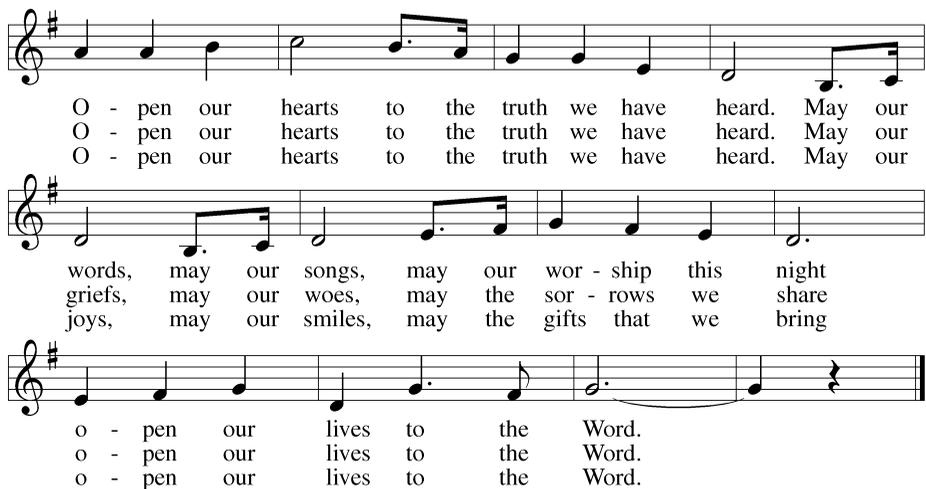
1 May our words, may our songs, may our wor - ship this night
2 May our griefs, may our woes, may the sor - rows we share
3 May our joys, may our smiles, may the gifts that we bring

fill up our hearts and give us new sight. May our
fill up our hearts and call forth our care. May our
fill up our hearts and stir us to sing. May we

prayers, may our praise give us light for our days, and
tears, may our fears be ac - cept - ed right here, and
serve, may we dance, may we all take that chance; and

o - pen our lives to the Word.
o - pen our lives to the Word.
o - pen our lives to the Word.

O - pen our lives to the liv - ing Word.
O - pen our lives to the liv - ing Word.
O - pen our lives to the liv - ing Word.



O - pen our hearts to the truth we have heard. May our
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words, may our songs, may our wor - ship this night
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joys, may our smiles, may the gifts that we bring
o - pen our lives to the Word.
o - pen our lives to the Word.
o - pen our lives to the Word.

Text: Ray Makeever

Music: OPEN OUR LIVES, Ray Makeever

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READINGS

February 22 - First Sunday in Lent - John 11:1-44

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ 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.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last

day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ 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.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ 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.³² 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.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

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

March 1- Second Sunday in Lent - John 13:1-17

¹ Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God,⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”⁷ Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”⁸ Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.”¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am.¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

March 8 - Third Sunday in Lent – John 13:21-38; 18:1-11

Chapter 13

²¹ After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³ One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining close to his heart; ²⁴ Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶ Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.” ²⁸ Now no one knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival,” or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered, “Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” ³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸ Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.

Chapter 18

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” ⁵ They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go.” ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

March 15 - Fourth Sunday in Lent - John 18:12-27

¹² So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

¹⁹ Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²² When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

March 22 - Fifth Sunday in Lent - John 18:28-40

²⁸ Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, "Not this man but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a rebel.

A note about this liturgy from Pastor Kirsten:

Lent is a unique season of trying to be intentional about drawing near to God as God draws near to us. This year is especially unique in that we're going to spend our time in scripture walking through much of the Passion. When the Narrative Lectionary was created, the team knew they wanted to spend one of the four years (one for each Gospel) doing a slow walk through the Passion narrative. That is this year, the year of John. That means that we'll start on Ash Wednesday (Feb 18) with the promise that Jesus is the good shepherd and the gate in John 10, witness the rising of Lazarus in John 11 on Feb 22 (which is what sends Jesus to the cross in John's gospel - different from the other three), and then begin walking through the Passion narrative on Mar 1 with the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples (which serves the role of the last supper in John - there isn't one of those in his telling).

You've heard me say a couple of times that John is keen to tell the story in such a way that Jesus is crucified on Passover so that he literally is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (Remember, Passover recalls the delivery of the Israelites from slavery under the Egyptians.) We will spend five weeks getting there, spending time with each character along the way. We'll be with Judas on March 8, Peter on March 15, and Pilate on March 22. Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday on March 29.

The words and songs of lament often feel like they fit in the season Lent, and you'll hear that in the liturgy again this year. We're using a Confession & Forgiveness that will be familiar to long-time Lutherans. There is some great language in there. And then we're using a familiar tune with new, powerful words for the Lent Hymn. We're continuing to use the Apostles' Creed because the Confirmands (6-8th graders) will be studying it in February and March. We're singing our prayers, as we often do in Advent and Lent, two special seasons that feel especially prayerful. A lot of the liturgy of the meal remained the same from Time After Epiphany (the last season) because they are Gospel of John-centric, and will still make good liturgical sense for us, and will align well with our scriptures. The Blessing at the end is from the Ash Wednesday liturgy and is one of my favorites.

There are other notes throughout the liturgy that will inform you about those pieces. If you ever had feedback or questions, I love to hear them!

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As Lutheran Christians, Lord of Life invites all people, wherever they are on their spiritual journey, to worship God, serve others, and build community, in order to transform individuals, the Tri-Cities, and the world.

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The spirit by which we go about living our mission and doing ministry.

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GROW in FAITH - We recognize that faith is a journey with intellectual and spiritual challenges along the way.

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To sign up for the weekly emails or prayer chain, contact Ana in the office.

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We want to be available to you. Making appointments is helpful.