

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN**  
**507-896-3102**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship with Holy Communion/FB**  
**March 22, 2026**



**Monday:**

**Tuesday:**

**Wednesday:** 6:30 Holden Evening Worship

**Thursday:**

**Friday:**

**Saturday:**

**Sunday:** 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship w/Holy Communion/FB  
10:30 a.m. Coffee hr./Sunday School, Club 56 & Confirmation  
1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class

*Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.*

## Prelude

## Ringling of the Church Bell

## Announcements

### Gathering Prayer

Choose this day whom you will serve;

**We will choose the living God.**

The road is narrow that leads to life;

**We will walk the way of Christ.**

Faith is holding on;

**Faith is letting go.**

We offer more than words, O God;

**We offer you our lives.**

Jesus said: Take up your cross.

**We will follow you, O Christ,**

**Into the needs of the world,**

**Into the truth of our lives,**

**Into the pain of our hearts,**

**Into the presence of God.**

**Amen.**

### Gathering Song: ELW #712 “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” vs 1,2&4

1 Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.

2 Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.

As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.

4 Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

## Prayer of the Day:

**Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Choir

### Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord." R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.**

### **Gospel: John 11:1-6,17-29,33-35,38-44**

P: The holy Gospel according to John. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep.

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Pastor Dana Jackson**

### **Hymn of the Day ELW #666 "What Wondrous Love Is This" vs 1,2&4**

1 What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss

to bear the dreadful curse

for my soul, for my soul,

to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

2 When I was sinking down,

sinking down, sinking down,

when I was sinking down, sinking down,

when I was sinking down

beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside his crown

for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

4 And when from death I'm free,

I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

and when from death I'm free, I'll sing

on; and when from death I'm free,

I'll sing God's love for me,

and through eternity

I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

and through eternity I'll sing on.

### **Apostle's Creed**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

**Prayers of Intercession:**

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

**Offering Collection**

**Offertory**                    **"Let the Vineyards be Fruitful"**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

## Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

### Invitation to Communion

*Congregation Response: All are welcome.*

**The Distribution (*Please sign the pew pad.*)**

**Communion Hymns: 758, 790, 742**

### Sending Song: ELW #661 "I Love to Tell the Story"

1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

(Refrain)

**I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.**

2 I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. **R**

3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. **R**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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### **Thank You for helping with the service today:**

Organist: Gayle Smith

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Acolytes: Elin Kohonen, Keahna Seekamp

Reader: Teddi Nastor-Whitney

Communion: Ruth Kempter, Denise  
Rostad, Jenelle Lemke, Teddi Nastor-  
Whitney

Usher: Holden Lund, Owen Krings,  
Duane Hegland

## **Announcements**

**Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>** Holden Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>** WELCA Spring Bake Sale 9am to 12pm.

Cakes, cookies, bars, breads, etc. Spring and Easter décor. Quilt drawing.  
Coffee and tea bar with sweet treats for sale.

**Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion.

**Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion/Noisy Offering**

7:00 am & 9:30 am. Easter Breakfast served between services. Free will Offering.

\*Egg donation may be brought to the church Monday-Thursday from 9 am-3 pm\*

**Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Pictures** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only. Please wear dress clothes and shoes as they will be visible in the photos. Students will wear a gown provided by the church. Photos are scheduled to be taken by Ross Himlie at 6pm.

**Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> Graduation Recognition.** Join us as the Seniors receive their Quilts during 9:30 am Worship followed by cake during coffee hour to celebrate.

**Sudsy Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> Caring** Collection we will be collecting dish soap, hand soap and laundry soap.