

# ***Fifth Sunday of Lent***

***March 22, 2026***

## WELCOME VISITORS

*We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today.  
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

*Children are always welcome in church,  
If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery for those age 4 and younger  
located on the second floor in the education wing. Take the first left down the  
hallway, and the nursery is the first door on your right.*

*Large print bulletins and hearing devices for today's worship are available,  
please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST** **March 22 – March 29**

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilting
	5:30 p.m.	LARC Soup Supper
	7:00 p.m.	LARC Worship at Trinity Episcopal
<b>Thursday</b>	6:15 p.m.	Rose Ringers
	7:15 p.m.	Choir
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

# GATHERING

## WELCOME & PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able.*

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,  
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

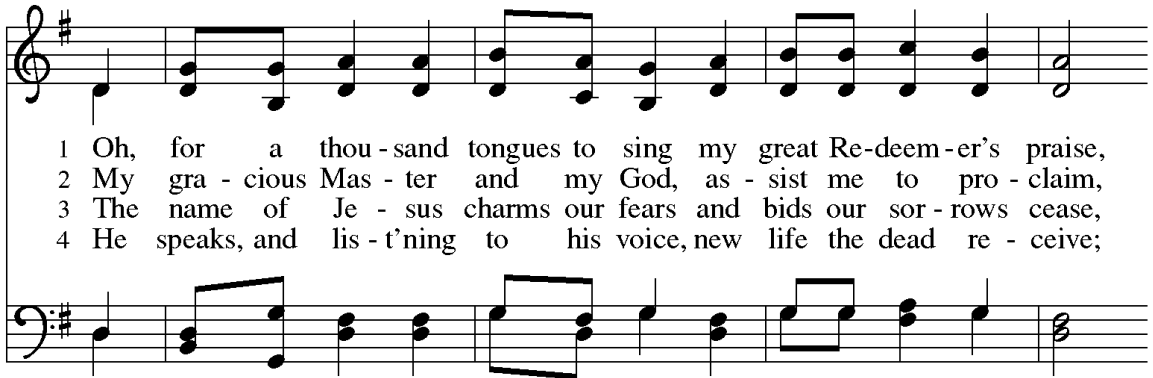
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

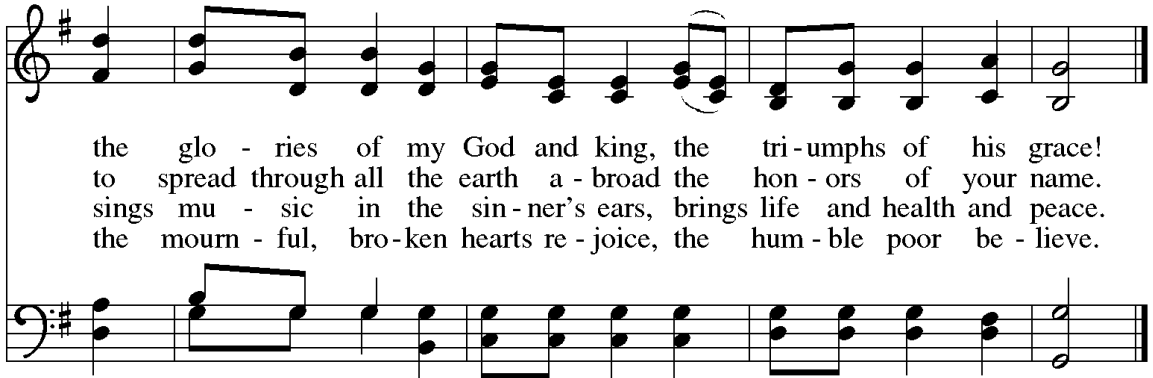
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

# Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Text: Charles Wesley Music: AZMON, Carl G. Glaser, arr. Lowell Mason



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,  
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

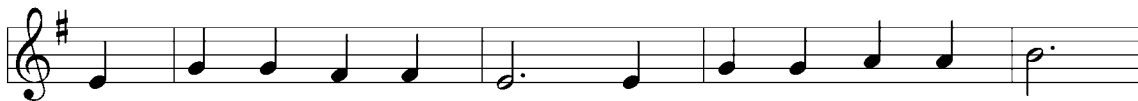
5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!

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

## 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.**

## KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

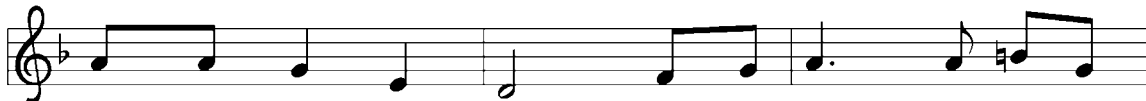


We come to hear your liv - ing Word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

4. God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death,  
hold us close through each tomorrow,  
love as near as every breath.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray. **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.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy 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, "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." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

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.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to John the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Please be seated due to the length of the Gospel reading*

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

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

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

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

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

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

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

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**  
*Please be seated*

## SERMON

*Silence follows the sermon for reflection.*

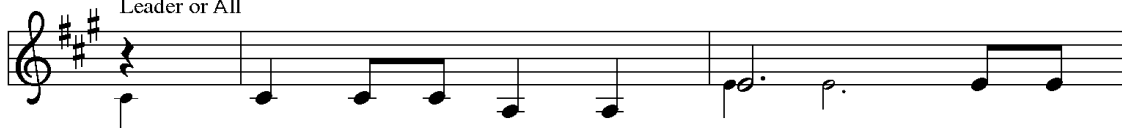
## PASTORAL PRAYER

*Please stand following the prayer as you are able.*

### I Am the Bread of Life

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RS<, b. based on John 6      Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan.

Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the  
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . . .  
5 Yes, Lord, . . . . I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -  
flesh for the life of the world, . . . . and if you  
flesh of the Son of Man . . . . and . . .  
I . . . . am the life. . . . If you be -  
you . . . . are the Christ, . . . . the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
eat . . . . of this bread, and you shall . . live for -  
drink . . . . of his blood, and drink . . . . of his  
lieve . . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . though you  
Son . . . . of . . . God, who . . . . have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons.”  
 ev - er, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er.”  
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you.”  
 die, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er.”  
 come in - to . . . . . the . . . . . world. . . . .

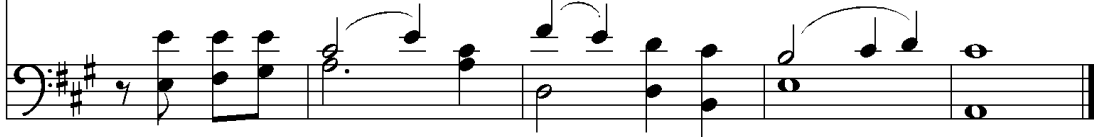
*Refrain*  
 All



“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day.”



*You may be seated.*

# OUR RESPONSE

## GATHERING OF GIFTS

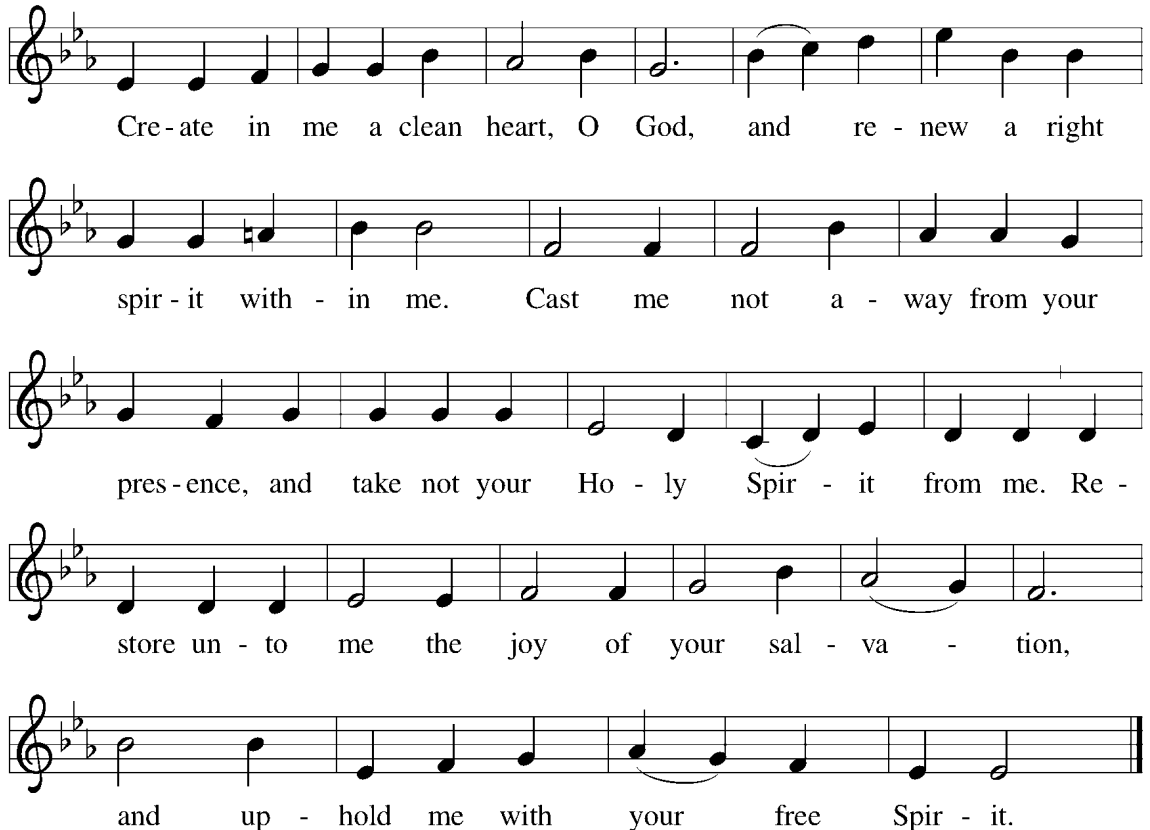
*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at [felcc.org](http://felcc.org) or by scanning this QR code*



## ANTHEM

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**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 our baptism, 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.**

## **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**

**Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, as you taught us, we are bold to pray:



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,  
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.  
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we  
for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al  
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

## BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence,

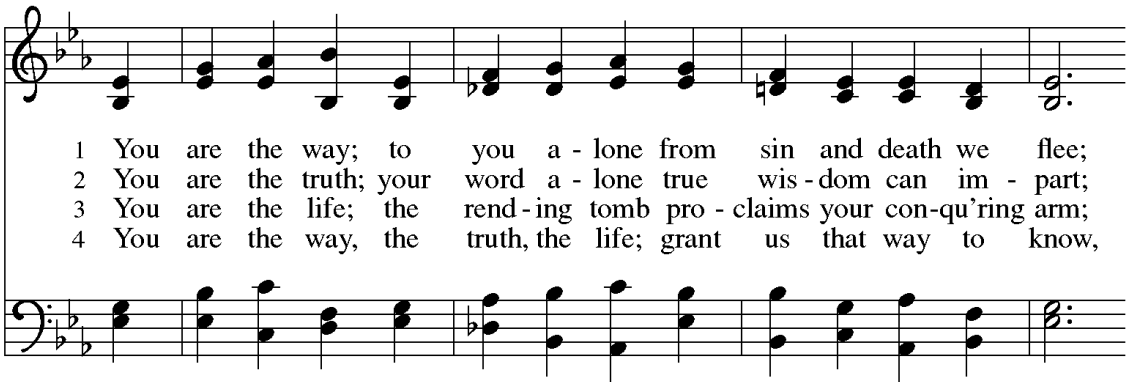
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,

and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,

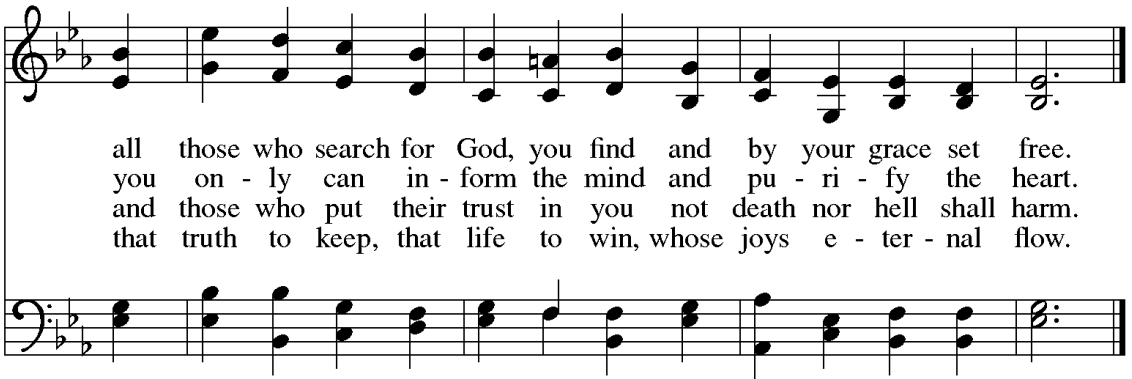
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

# You Are the Way

Text: George W. Doane Music: DUNDEE, Psalter, Edinburgh



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;  
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;  
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;  
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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**ATTENDANCE**      March 15                      58 in person                      16 online

**LENTEN OFFERING** of First Lutheran Church will be given to the Discretionary Fund to help people with rent and utility bills.

***Please remember in your prayers...***

Healing: Cathy Beam (3/22), **Ralph Burdick** (4/7), **Dalton Paul** (3/27)

Continuing Prayers: Madeline Artman, **Joanne Caskey**, **June Diehl**,  
**Harold Forrester**, **Charles Kampmeyer**, **Julie Paul**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, **Hunter Boock**

Grieving: Family of Lisa Shupp



**SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS NEEDED**

We are looking for two persons to attend synod assembly in York, PA on June 5 and 6. There is a Conference meeting on April 19 at 2 pm in Greencastle. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please speak with Pastor Nicholson.

**NETwork Ministries Fundraising Banquet** is on Thursday, April 16th, 6 PM, at World Harvest Outreach. Doors open at 5 PM, and the evening includes a catered dinner, artwork, testimonies, and performances from NETwork's youth, and guest speaker Tommy Nixon. The cost is \$30. Please contact NETwork at [networkchambersburg@gmail.com](mailto:networkchambersburg@gmail.com) or 717-264-4640 by April 6th to make reservations. Don't miss this year's celebration!

**ST. SERAPHIM** Soup Kitchen needs your help. Since they provide soup, hotdogs, sandwiches, crackers, drinks and a sweet bite for folks who need a meal on Thursdays and Saturdays, the Orthodox Church is asking for donations of canned soups. No tomato please. There is a bin in Memorial Hall for donations.

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** 2025 Thrivent Beneficiary

Member please remember to direct your "Choice Dollars" by March 31, 2026. Please consider directing those dollars to First Lutheran ASAP. The dollars that are not designated by the end of March 2026 will be lost. You can designate your dollars by going to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or calling 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars."



**BIRTHDAY BAGS** for Little Daisy's Closet are needed. The needs are: large birthday bags, plates, napkins, candles, balloons, small gifts, snack items, cakes, icings, and cake pans. Thank you for your contributions to make up the bags!

**SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network)** Working with the social workers of the school district, SCAN volunteers fill emergency requests for clothing and school supplies. When a request is received, it is assigned to volunteers to acquire the necessary items, either through purchase or donation. When requests are received the need is urgent. The children involved are in crisis situations—domestic upheaval, homelessness, unexpected relocations. Please contact Tim or Mary: 717-264-4759, 717-491-0611, [tim@gotwald.org](mailto:tim@gotwald.org), [mary@gotwald.org](mailto:mary@gotwald.org)  
Thank you for considering.

**SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE** at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa on Sunday, April 12 from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Meet some of the Summer Camp Staff and take a tour of the camp. For more information, visit [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org) or call the camping office at 717-677-8211.



**AMERICA 250PA PARADE** will be on Saturday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m. Zion Reformed, Falling Spring Presbyterian, and First Lutheran are all Rose Rent Congregations and are working together to have an exhibit in the parade. If you would like to participate in creating a float, or being in the parade, please speak with Pastor Nicholson.

### **LIVING WATER IN A DRY LAND - LARC Lent Theme**

**LARC WORSHIP** will be at Trinity Episcopal Church at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25 with Deacon Richard Ramsey from Corpus Christi preaching. We hope you will be able to join us.

**LARC LENT SOUP SUPPERS** A soup and bread supper will be held Wednesday evening at 5:30 at Trinity Episcopal.



**LARC LENTEN OFFERINGS** LARC Lenten offerings received on Wednesday evenings will be donated to Harken House Ministry. Harken House Ministry provides a work/training program for those being released on parole. Checks to support Harken House may be **made payable to LARC**.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>March 22</u>	<u>March 29</u> <u>(Palm Sunday)</u>	<u>April 2</u> <u>(Maundy Thursday)</u>
Lector:	Rose Wilson	Becky Hoover	Joyce Ray
Communion Assistants:		Jane Love Donna Ross Mike Ross	Jim Brown Gerry Wilson Rose Wilson
Greeters:	Bob Hammer Dot Hammer	Bob Hammer Dot Hammer	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans	Barb Evans	Barb Evans
Ushers:	Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson	Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson	Gary Fleegal Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Mark Nicholson

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

March 29	10:45 a.m.	<b>Palm Sunday</b> with Palms, Cantata, and Communion
April 2	7:00 p.m.	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> with Holy Communion and stripping of the altar
April 3	7:00 p.m.	<b>Good Friday</b> Tenebrae Worship
April 5	10:45 a.m.	<b>Easter</b> Worship with Holy Communion



**EASTER BREAKFAST** Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for breakfast. Easter Egg Hunt for children will be at 10 a.m. Please sign up by main office door for breakfast by March 29.

**BEAUTIFUL HOLY WEEK INVITATIONS** are available at the worship entrances to share with your family, neighbors, or coworkers – help yourself and share them with others. Your way to spread the good news of Jesus Christ!