

5th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude *Blute nur, du liebes Herz* from *St. Matthew Passion, BWV 244* J.S. Bach

Greeting and Announcements

Opening Sentences

***Doxology** - all to sing

No. 592

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Praise**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: As children of God, we dwell in the Spirit, and the Spirit dwells in us.

People: We are alive in the Spirit through the righteousness of God.

Leader: In humility and faith, we come to worship the One who gives us life, hope, and healing.

People: God has brought us to this moment and will guide us still.

Praise the Lord!

Leader: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn** [“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”](#)

***Call to Confession**

Leader: To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? We know the power of death. We have seen its works, we have felt its sting. We have been to the valley of despair, and felt like there was no chance for life. We do not believe in your power to resurrect. We do not believe in your power to redeem our pain, and fashion something beautiful in this world. We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We seek peace through war find security in

weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! Father, forgive us. We cry from the depths— however faint our call may be, we pray you hear our voice. Therefore, we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin.

A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Thus says the Lord, 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. This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

***Response of Praise**-all to sing “Gloria Patri” No. 579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

***We Share God’s Peace**

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

(You are invited to share God’s peace as you greet those around you.)

Special Music

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me Lloyd Larson, arr.

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Ezekiel 37:1-14 \(NRSV\)](#)

Hymn (seated)

“Jesus Loves Me”

No. 304

*Jesus loves me! This I know. For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Children’s Message

(Children grades K-8 may be dismissed to Sunday School)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

[John 11:1-45 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon

“Going There Again”

to these bones

The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People...The Lord's Prayer ('debts' and debtors')

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn

[“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”](#)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Menuet and Trio from Sonata in B minor, Hob: 32* Joseph Haydn

(We invite you to remain seated through the Postlude.)

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for March 29, 2026

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66