

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22nd, 2026



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO

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THE COMMON SERVICE

Stand.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.



CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

ELH stz. 9–10 (CW 100)

9. Of death I am no more afraid,
New life from Thee is flowing;
Thy cross affords me cooling shade
When day's hot sun is glowing.
When by my grief I am oppressed,
On Thee my weary soul shall rest
And o'er grief's ills so conquer.
And when beneath life's stormy woe
My ship is driven to and fro,
So art Thou then my Anchor.
10. And when Thy glory I shall see
And taste Thy kingdom's pleasure,
Thy blood my royal robe shall be,
My joy beyond all measure;
When I appear before Thy throne,
Thy righteousness shall be my crown,
With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought
As Thine own bride, I shall be brought
To stand in joy beside Thee.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by your great goodness, mercifully look upon your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Genesis 22:1-14

Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, "Abraham!" Abraham answered, "I am here."

God said, "Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct you."

Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the

place in the distance.

Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.

Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father?"

He said, "I am here, my son."

He said, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Abraham said, "God himself will provide the

lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them went on together. They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!”

Abraham said, “I am here.”

He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy.

Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham called the name of that place “The LORD Will Provide.” So it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

Anthem ----- O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head

Children’s Choir, CW 118

1. O dearest Lord, thy sacred head With thorns was pierced for me;
Oh, pour thy blessing on my head That I may think for thee.
2. O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands With nails were pierced for me;
Oh, shed thy blessing on my hands That they may work for thee.
3. O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet With nails were pierced for me;
Oh, pour thy blessing on my feet That they may follow thee.
4. O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart With spear was pierced for me;
Oh, pour thy Spirit in my heart That I may live for thee.

Second Lesson ----- Hebrews 9:11–15

But when Christ appeared as the high priest of the good things that were coming, he went through the greater and more complete tent, which was not made by human hands (that is, it is not part of this creation). He entered once into the Most Holy Place and obtained eternal redemption, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood. Now if the blood of goats and bulls

and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkled on those who were unclean, sanctifies them so that their flesh is clean, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works, so that we worship the living God?

For this reason, he is the mediator of a new

covenant. A death took place as payment for the trespasses committed under the first covenant, so

that those who are called would receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Verse of the Day

Mark 10:45

M: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Stand.

Gospel ----- **John 8:46–59**

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

Who of you can convict me of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? Whoever belongs to God listens to what God says. The reason you do not listen is that you do not belong to God."

The Jews responded, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon. On the contrary, I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. I do not seek my own glory. There is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. Amen, Amen, I tell you: If anyone holds on to my word, he will certainly never see death."

So the Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets. Yet you say, 'If anyone holds on to my word, he will certainly never taste death.' You are

not greater than our father, Abraham, are you? He died. And the prophets died. Who do you think you are?"

Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, about whom you say, 'He is our God.' Yet you do not really know him, but I do know him. If I said, 'I do not know him,' I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I hold on to his word. Your father Abraham was glad that he would see my day. He saw it and rejoiced."

The Jews replied, "You aren't even fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Before Abraham was born, I am." Then they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden and left the temple area.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- My Song Is Love Unknown

CW 110

1. My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
2. He came from his blest throne Salvation to bestow,
But such disdain! So few The longed-for Christ would know!
But oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!
3. Sometimes they strew his way And his sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath, And for his death They thirst and cry.
4. Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run; He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease And 'gainst him rise.
5. They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save; The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he To suff'ring goes That he his foes From death might free.
6. In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
But mine the tomb Wherein he lay.

7. Here might I stay and sing; No story so divine,
 Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
 I all my days Could gladly spend!

Sermon ----- **John 8:46–59**

Jesus Is Great Enough to Overcome Death

Stand.

Credal Hymn ----- **We All Believe In One True God**

CW 271

1. We all believe in one true God, Who created earth and heaven,
 The Father, who to us in love Has the right of children given.
 He in soul and body feeds us; All we need his hand provides us.
 He through snares and perils leads us, Watching that no harm betides us.
 He cares for us by day and night; All things are governed by his might.
2. We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing
 An equal Godhead, throne and might, Source of ev'ry grace and blessing,
 Born of Mary, virgin mother, By the power of the Spirit,
 Made true man, our elder brother, That the lost might life inherit,
 Was crucified by sinful men And raised by God to life again.
3. We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who, sweet hope and comfort giving,
 Now with the Father and the Son In eternal light is living,
 Who the Church, his own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit;
 Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus' merit.
 All flesh shall rise, and we shall be In bliss with God eternally.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give



Offerings support the spread
 of the Gospel here and around the world.

Prayer of the Church

The minister calls for the petitions and the congregation prays with “Lord, have mercy.”

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: To the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by His death brought us to His holy hill and by His resurrection justified us in His sight; that He would lead us by the light and truth of His Holy Word to vindication in Christ in the face of all the enemies of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For this and all congregations, that the Lord would remember them, strengthen and defend His pastors and servants in the Church, and cause His people rightly to fear His wrath and rejoice in His redemption, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all fathers in the home and Church, that our heavenly Father would give them wisdom and fortitude; that He would make them faithful in teaching His Word to the children entrusted to their care; and that all little ones would come to know their heavenly Father and live as true children of God, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For good government and faithful leaders, that they would heed God’s Word and pursue righteousness and justice; and for the Lord to bless and defend us against all destruction and teach us to be patient and faithful citizens of this land so that we would use ourselves and our resources wisely for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For those in need, [*especially _____,*] that God would mercifully receive our prayers through the intercession of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest; and that He would answer our petitions on account of the merits and mediation of His Son, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For our communicants, that, gathered into His new testament, they may be cleansed from sin through Christ's body and blood and set free from slavery to this world, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, that we may not be deceived by that liar and murderer the devil, but know Your truth and so come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: **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 forever and ever. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: **We lift them up un - to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ----- Christ, the Life of All the Living

CW 114

1. Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
Who, thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe—
Through thy suff'rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
2. Thou, ah, thou hast taken on thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
3. Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
4. Heartless scoffers did surround thee, Treating thee with cruel scorn,
And with piercing thorns they crowned thee.
All disgrace thou, Lord, hast borne
That as thine thou mightest own me And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

5. Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did thy foes accuse thee—Thence I gain security.
Comfortless thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
6. Thou has suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me.
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
7. Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For thy sorrows deep and sore,
For thine anguish in the garden, I will thank thee evermore,
Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing, For thy bleeding and thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Hymn ----- What Wondrous Love Is This

CW 120

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.

3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
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 his love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

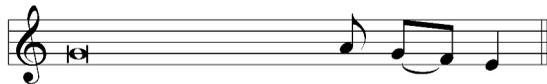
After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

Hymn ----- Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

CW 127

1. Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

2. Tell me, as you hear him groaning, Was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress,
Many hands were raised to wound him, None would intervene to save,
But the deepest stroke that pierced him Was the stroke that Justice gave.
3. If you think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; See who bears the awful load—
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.
4. Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt—
None shall ever be confounded Who on him their hope have built.

