

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS—
“Take My Life and Let It Be” vs. 1, 4-6

#783

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER (10:30)

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:00) (Please see next page to prepare.)

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Agnus Dei	p198

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

I believe that:

- + I am a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.
- + Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
- + Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
- + The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- + All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
- + As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord’s Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:

- “Be Still, My Soul” #752
- Special Music
- “What Wondrous Love is This” #543

Nunc Dimittis p199

Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Collect p200

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN — “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” vs. 1, 3-4 #685

THE POSTLUDE

✘ ✘ ✘

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026

***WELCOME!** In today’s Gospel reading Jesus reveals His power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. In the Old Testament reading the prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God’s promise of resurrection—which, each day, draws nearer!*

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THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND PASTORAL GREETING

✘ **THE PREPARATION** ✘

THE OPENING HYMN — “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” #575

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (taken from D.S. III—p 184)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✘ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalm 32:5*

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING – Ezekiel 37:1-14

Pew Bibles, p860

[Displayed on the screens up front because of length.]

LECTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING – Romans 8:1-11, ESV

Pew Bibles, p1116

[Displayed on the screens up front because of length.]

LECTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL PREPARATION FOR LENT

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

C: Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING — John 11:1-45, ESV

Pew Bibles, page 1066

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them

plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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THE SERMON HYMN –

"My Song is Love Unknown" vs. 1-4

#430

THE SERMON

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE –

"My Song is Love Unknown" vs. 5-7

#430

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP