

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**April 6, 2025**

**9:30 am**

# SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

## APRIL 6, 2025

*Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21**

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

### **Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

### **Gospel: John 12:1-8**

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

### **Prelude**

*Please stand when the (\*) indicates standing. Know the communion of Saints, both living & departed, stand for you if you should choose to remain seated for any reason.*

## **\*The Pastoral Greeting**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A:** **And also with you.**

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedes en Contradansen*, 1710

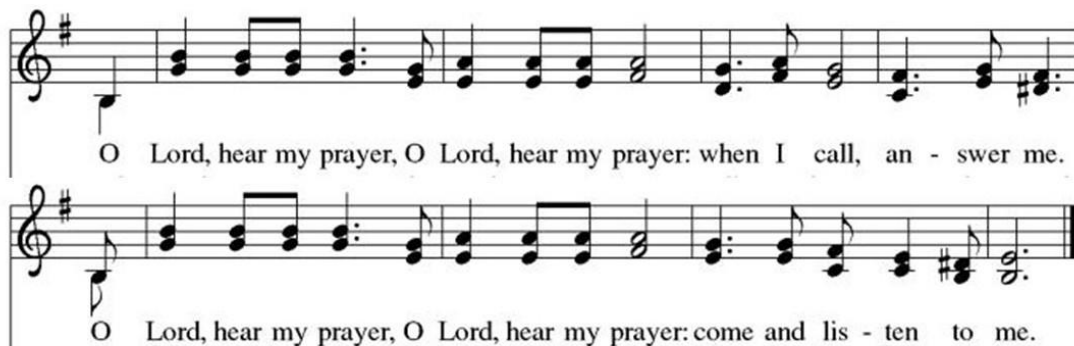
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## \*Kyrie

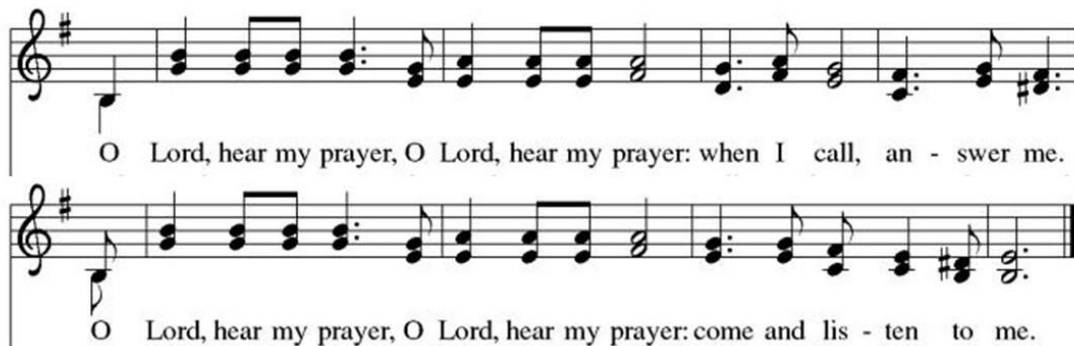
## *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

*ELW 751*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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## \*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

P: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

## The First Reading

## Isaiah 43:16-21

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
    who makes a way in the sea,  
    a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
    army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
    they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
    or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
    now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
    and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
    the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
    rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
    <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

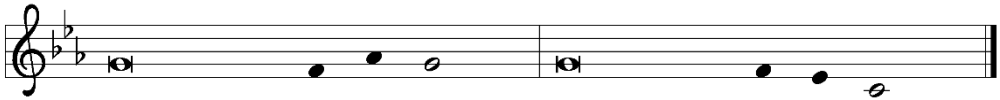
## Psalm 126

(sung responsively)

The accompanist will introduce the refrain, followed by the Cantor singing it once.  
Then the congregation sings it with the Cantor. R indicates repeat the refrain.



Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.



- 1 When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.
- 2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue  
with | shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done  
great | things for them."**
- 3 The LORD has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.
- 4 **Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R**
- 5 Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.
- 6 **Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R**

## The Second Reading

## Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more.  
<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*The Announcement of the Gospel Reading**

*ELW Setting 10*



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.



*All Sing*



Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what <sup>l</sup> lies ahead,\* I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God <sup>l</sup> in Christ Jesus.

*Repeat Gospel Acclamation*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St John.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **\*The Reading of the Gospel**

### **John 12:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

A: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

*We observe a brief silence for reflection*

Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself, and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879. alt.

Music: PAIMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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## **\*The Apostle's 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

### **\*The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

P: Let us offer one another the sign of the Risen Christ's peace.

*As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome all because God welcomes all, and we recognize that our differences are gifts to our communal life.*

**\*The Offering Prayer**

P: Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**A: Amen.**

*The offering plates will be available on the table in the Narthex.  
Please place your offering there, as you leave.*

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*Holy, Holy, Holy

*ELW Setting 10*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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

## \*Words of Institution

**P:** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**A:** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## \*Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

A: **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 Celebration of Holy Communion

*Please remain standing during the singing of the Lamb of God.*

## \*Lamb of God

*ELW Setting 10*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## The Invitation to Communion

P: All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

*Please come to the communion rail and kneel (or stand). We will receive communion by intinction. Receive the bread, dip into the wine or white grape juice, then take and eat.*

## The Communion Music

ACS 1033

### Nothing Can Trouble *Nada te turbe*

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te.  
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.

Quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta. Na - da te tur - be,  
Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,

na - da te es - pan - te. So - lo Dios bas - ta.  
noth - ing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

Text: Teresa of Avila, 1515–1582; adapt. Taizé Community

Music: NADA TE TURBE, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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### **\*The Communion Blessing**

P: May the nourishment of the body and blood of our Savior  
Jesus Christ give you renewed strength and life.

A: **Amen.**

### **\*The Prayer After Communion**

P: Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **Announcements & Community Updates**

### **\*The Blessing**

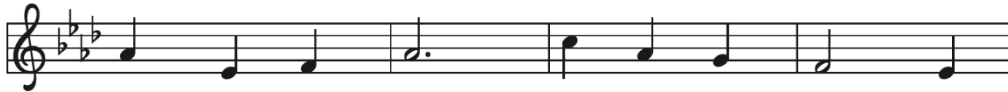
P: God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

A: **Amen.**

### **\*The Sending Song**

*ACS 1000*

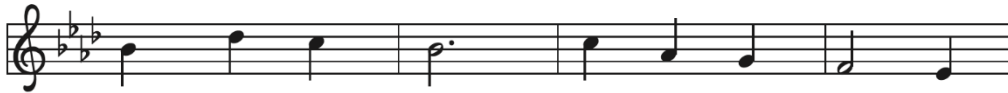
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1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*Clayton Foor*

## **Worship Assistants**

Reader & Communion Assistant: *Sara Brightwell*

Crucifer: *Eric Carlson*      Usher(s): *Eric Carlson*

Music: *Gail Flack*

Cantor: *Sara Brightwell*

Presiding Minister: *Father Noel Doherty*

First Lutheran church **strives to inspire hope**  
for a wounded world;

**Gathers in worship**  
that both **uplifts** and **challenges**;

And **builds life-affirming relationships**  
inside and outside the walls of our building.

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