



## Union Lutheran Church

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5th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

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***The Common Thread:*** *A valley of long-dead bones is revived. A dead man is raised from the grave. And we too, who were dead in our sins, dead men walking in this flesh, are raised to new life in Christ. But this happens, not because a prophet spoke or even because the Lord said, "Come forth," but because the Son of Man died for the world, becoming the resurrection and the life to everyone who believes.*

Union Lutheran Church welcomes you as you join us in worship this morning. Please fill out the communion/visitor card so that we can be made aware of your presence. If you have questions or are interested in the ministries and life of Union, please see the pastor, contact the church office, or scan the QR code.

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal ~ With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal  
P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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**ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

*Sola Publishing Alternate Lenten Liturgy and Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* (arr. Mark Hayes)

*The altar candles lit represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week we will extinguish candles, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Today the Altar Candles and only 2 candelabra candles will be lit.*

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Invocation (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 3:16-17, 18:20)

P We are gathered in the name of the one God: Father, and of the Son, ✚ and Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness (Lamentations 3:40-41; Romans 3:23; John 3:16-17; Colossians 1:13-14; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 1:9, 3:8; Matthew 25:34-40; Proverbs 14:31, 19:17; Isaiah 58:6-7; James 2:15-17; Job 31:16-22; Ezekiel 16:49; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Psalm 51:12)

P In this season of Lent, let us draw near to the Lord and examine our hearts and minds for the ways in which we have fallen short of the glory of God.

*Silence for self-reflection and examination*

P Holy God,  
C **You sent your Son, Jesus, into the world to save us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. We confess that we have failed in many ways to follow him in our lives. We have forsaken the poor and hungry, we have neglected the sick and sorrowful, and we have looked out for our own needs rather than the needs of others. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to a new and right relationship with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution (Luke 20:17)

P The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone; all those who believe in Christ are living stones in his holy house. Hear his Word of forgiveness and be comforted by his love. You are made new again by the blood of Christ who gave himself for us so that we might be holy and precious in his sight.

**C Amen.**

Hymn: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

LBW# 385

- 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.

Text: American folk hymn, alt. Tune: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835 Setting © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

Apostolic Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who saves us through faith, the love of the Father who gifts us with every good gift, and the communion of the Holy Spirit who fills us with all wisdom, be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

Kyrie (Mark 10:47)

LBW p. 78-79

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** 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.**

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise is omitted during the season of Lent.*

Salutation (2 Timothy 4:22)

LBW p.82

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, look favorably upon your family. Graciously rule our bodies lest we are enticed to love the world, and guard our spirits lest we fail to recognize your love. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

*Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message.*

Children's Message

*Following the Children's Message, the children are asked to sit with their families while the congregation sings*

Hymn: Kids Lenten Song (tune of Frère Jacques)

**Prayer and fasting and almsgiving**

**We are meant to repent**

**Forty days of sacrifice**

**Being super extra nice**

**This is Lent. This is Lent.**

*Repeat*

Old Testament Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The first lesson is written in the 37th chapter of Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O LORD God, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy over 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: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon 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 was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, 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, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the LORD God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the LORD God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 130 *The Psalm of the Day is read in unison.*

**C** <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 pleas for mercy!**  
<sup>3</sup>**If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand?**  
<sup>4</sup>**But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**  
<sup>5</sup>**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;**  
<sup>6</sup>**my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**  
<sup>7</sup>**O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.**  
<sup>8</sup>**And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

New Testament Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

The second lesson is written in the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For 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 the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact 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, although the body is dead because of sin, 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 also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

L Here ends the reading.

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Lenten Gospel Verse *Return to the Lord* (Joel 2:12-13)

LBW p. 83

**C Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: John 11:1-53

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>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." <sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So, when he 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 seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." <sup>11</sup>After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." <sup>13</sup>Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, <sup>15</sup>and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." <sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <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 whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <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. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." <sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for

you.”<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.<sup>31</sup> 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.<sup>32</sup> 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.”<sup>33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup> And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.<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 also have kept this man from dying?”<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.<sup>39</sup> 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.”<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 lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.<sup>42</sup> 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.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”<sup>44</sup> 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.”<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,<sup>46</sup> but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.<sup>47</sup> So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs.<sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”<sup>49</sup> But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all.<sup>50</sup> Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”<sup>51</sup> He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,<sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.<sup>53</sup> So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

Sermon: *Not a Bang nor a Whimper*

Pastor Heidi Punt

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Hymn of the Day: *In the Morning When I Rise (Give Me Jesus)*

WOV# 777

**1** In the morning when I rise, In the morning when I rise,  
In the morning when I rise, Give me Jesus

*Refrain:* Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus, You can have all the rest, Give me Jesus.

- 2 **Dark midnight was my cry, Dark midnight was my cry,  
Dark midnight was my cry, Give me Jesus. *Refrain***
- 3 **Just about the break of day, Just about the break of day,  
Just about the break of day, Give me Jesus. *Refrain***
- 4 **O, when I come to die, O, when I come to die,  
O, when I come to die, Give me Jesus. *Refrain***
- 5 **And when I want to sing, And when I want to sing,  
And when I want to sing, Give me Jesus. *Refrain***

Text: African-American spiritual Tune: L. L. Fleming, b. 1936 African-American spiritual Arr. © 1973 Augsburg Publishing House

Nicene Creed (*Romans 10:9-10*)

LBW p. 84

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*\*Or, We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.*

Prayers of the Church (*1 Timothy 2:1-4*)

**P** Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

*A brief silence*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**P** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace (John 20:19)

LBW p. 86

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Offering (Malachi 3:10)

*The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared.*

*All loose offerings will go towards the Youth Missions Fund.*

*The monthly benevolence will go towards the North American Lutheran Seminary.*

Organ Offertory: *Fairest Lord Jesus* (arr. Phillip Keveren)

### MEAL

*God invites us to His table.*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Offertory *Create in me a clean heart, O God* (Psalm 51:10-12)

LBW p. 96

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Offertory Prayer

P God of love, you have provided for our every need from your abundant bounty. Grant us grateful hearts that we may give generously to those in need and thereby show your love to the world around us.

C **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving (2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136)

LBW p. 88-91

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . (*Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8)

LBW p. 89

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution (33)

LBW p. 90

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send

now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**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.

The Lord's Prayer (*Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*)

LBW p. 91

**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**

*Please be seated.*

*Those who are assisting with Holy Communion are asked to come forward at this time.*

Agnus Dei *Lamb of God* (*John 1:29*)

LBW p.92

**C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution of Communion (*Mark 14:23*)

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.*

*All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

*Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher as you follow their directions to the communion station.*

*Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request.*

Communion Music

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Blessing (*1 Thessalonians 5:23*)

LBW p.92

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen**

Post-Communion Canticle *Lord, now let your servant* (*Luke 2:29-32*)

LBW p. 93-94

**C Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer (*James 1:12*)

P Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

C **Amen**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Benediction (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

LBW p. 95

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen**

Hymn: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

LBW# 482

- 1 **When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2 **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**
- 3 **See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
- 4 **Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: Edward Miller, 1731-1807

Sending (*Matthew 28:18-20, 3 John 1:8; Ephesians 4:15-16; Romans 15:15-16*)

P Here at Union Lutheran Church we are Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused.

C **We are fellow workers of the Gospel, Unified in Christ.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent.

C **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Postlude: *Forty Days and Forty Nights* (Tune: Heinlein and attributed to: Martin Herbe)

**2026 Attendance Report**

March 15	42	Sunday School
March 15	110	Worship & Holy Communion
March 17	40	5th Tuesday in Lent

**Teaching Moment: Lutherans at Worship ~ Glossary of Lutheran Terms**

Prayer at the Close of the Day (*The night prayer, also called Compline.*)

Prayer of the Day (*Brief prayer in the Holy Communion liturgy which expresses the theme of the day; also called the collect.*)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*see Eucharistic Prayer.*)

Preface (*The beginning portion of the Great Thanksgiving, which relates the Holy Communion to the day or season of the church year.*)

(Lutherans at Worship by S. Anita Stauffer, Gilbert A. Doan, and Michael B. Aune page 94)

**Those Serving March 22, 2026**

**Guest Organist:** Becky Lippard

**Altar Guild:** Patsy Lyerly, Angie Poole & Vivian Sprinkle

**Acolytes:** Bailey & Lucas Wilhelm

**Communion Assistants:** Patsy Lyerly, Angie Poole & Vivian Sprinkle

**Lay Reader:** Doris Shepherd

**Ushers:** Larry Barringer, Ali Davis, Don & Tara Davis

**Live Streaming:** Pete Nguyen

**Sound System:** Thad Mulkey, Dusty Morgan, Sr., & Dusty Morgan, Jr.

**Offering Counters:** Jennifer Curlee, Ali Davis, & Doris Shepherd

**Sending Sunday Visitors Cards:** Deena Lanning

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**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

Loose Offering: Youth Missions Fund

Benevolence: North American Lutheran Seminary

Monthly Project: Amazon & Walmart gift cards for Melanie Corn, sponsored Seminarian

Deadline: recommendations from the congregation for financial advisors for consideration to John Knight, Treasurer

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

During the Lenten Season, we use twigs and branches instead of flowers to symbolize penitence, spiritual dryness, and preparation for Easter's rebirth, as flowers represent joy and celebration, which are set aside during this somber, reflective season of self-emptying and focus on Christ's sacrifice, mirroring the desert journey. Bare branches signify the spiritual "emptying" of sin, awaiting the new life of Easter, much like dormant plants awaiting spring.

**9:10 a.m.** Union Youth Choir

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School

Plot of the Council

John 11:45-57; Acts 4:1-12

*“What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”*

**John 11:47-48**

**9:30 a.m.** Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Plot of the Council ~ John 11:45-57; Acts 4:1-12

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Welcoming Others in Christ

Colossians 3:1-11; Ruth 1:1-18; John 4:5-10, Acts 10:1-11:18

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130:1-8; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-45, 46-53

Sermon: *Not a Bang nor a Whimper*

During Lent, the altar candles lit represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week we will extinguish candles, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world. On Sunday, March 22, the Altar Candles and only 2 candelabra candles will be lit.

A **Called Congregational Meeting** of Union Lutheran Church will be held **today** following worship in the Sanctuary with the purpose of discussing, reviewing and voting on the 2026 Church Yearbook.

**4:00 p.m.** Luther League (Faith, Faith)

*The Finance Team is seeking the congregation's advice on recommending local financial advisors to assist in investing portions of the land sale proceeds. Please submit names to John Knight, Treasurer, by Sunday, March 22. The Finance Team will select **four** advisors during their Wednesday, March 25, meeting.*

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Tuesday, March 24

**6:00 p.m.** Lenten Meal *(Dutch Meeting Hall)*

Meal is prepared by the Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

Tuesday, March 24      **6:30 p.m.** Lenten Worship Service "*Crisis in Identity*" (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

Wednesday, March 25

**2:00 p.m.** Autumn Care Chapel Time

**6:00 p.m.** Finance Team

**6:30 p.m.** Catechism (*Pastor's Office*)

**6:30 p.m.** Belles & Beaus

**7:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir

Friday, March 27

**6:00 p.m.** Line Dancing (*Old Pine Center*)

Come join us to beautify the church grounds and facilities for Holy Week on **Saturday, March 28**, at **9:30 a.m.**! Bring your supplies, tools and anything you think could be useful.

Please note that Christmas Flowers will be removed and discarded from the Cemetery.

Saturday, March 28

**1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.** Megan Cline (*Old Pine Center*)

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### **Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**

Loose Offering: Special Offering Fund

Benevolence: North American Lutheran Seminary

Monthly Project: Amazon & Walmart gift cards for Melanie Corn, sponsored Seminarian

Deadline: Potted Flower list

Union Lutheran Church is pleased to announce that applications for the **Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship** are available for pick up from the church office (blue top table). Deadline to the church office: Palm Sunday, March 29

During the Lenten Season, we use twigs and branches instead of flowers to symbolize penitence, spiritual dryness, and preparation for Easter's rebirth, as flowers represent joy and celebration, which are set aside during this somber, reflective season of self-emptying and focus on Christ's sacrifice, mirroring the desert journey. Bare branches signify the spiritual "emptying" of sin, awaiting the new life of Easter, much like dormant plants awaiting spring.

**9:10 a.m.** Union Youth Choir

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School

Triumphant Entry ~ John 12:12-19; Psalm 24:3-10

*They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"* **John 12:13**

**9:30 a.m.** Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Triumphant Entry

John 12:12-19; Psalm 24:3-10

**Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Waiting for God’s Peace

Revelation 5:8-14; Isaiah 2:2-4, 11:6-10; John 18:28-38; Ephesians 4:4-6, 13-19; Acts 17:26-28

*All are welcome to pick up palm branches as you enter the Sanctuary!*

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 118:19–26; Philippians 2:5–11; Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon: *Holy Chaos*

*For those who do not wish to keep their palm, please return the palm to the box when leaving.*

During Lent, the altar candles lit represent Jesus’ life and ministry. Each week we will extinguish candles, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world. On Sunday, March 29, the Altar Candles and only 1 candelabra candle on each side will be lit.

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Wednesday, April 1

**2:00 p.m.** Autumn Care Chapel Time

**6:30 p.m.** Catechism (*Pastor’s Office*)

**6:30 p.m.** Belles & Beaus

**7:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir

Maundy Thursday, April 2      **4:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.** Worship & Holy Communion (*Sanctuary*)

Exodus 24:3–11; Psalm 116:12-19; Hebrews 9:11–22; Matthew 26:17–30

Good Friday, April 3      **4:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.** Worship (*Sanctuary*)

Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalm 22:1–31; Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9; John 18:1–19:42

**Union Youth Lock-In** following evening worship service.

**Prayer Vigil** following evening worship service (*sign up for a time slot*)

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**Potted Flowers**

You are invited to add to the beauty of our Sanctuary this Easter by placing and dedicating potted flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one. The beautiful flowers will adorn the Sanctuary serving as a living tribute to those who have touched our lives.

Dedications will be listed in the Potted Flowers booklet.

Please drop off to the Sanctuary your signed potted flowers on Saturday, April 4, between 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

You may take your plant(s) home after Easter Sunday, April 5.

Deadline: Palm Sunday, March 29

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

How many potted flowers? \_\_\_\_\_

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**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

**Nursing Homes** – Brenda Mahaley (Autumn Care Room 815), Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care Room 818), Jean Ray (Autumn Care Room 201), Sarah Bame (Brookdale Room 9), Pat Kluttz (Brookdale Room 56), Donnell Miller (Bethany Woods, Albemarle), Rachel Earnhardt (The Laurels), Charles Hartley (The Laurels Room 301), Mike Taylor (Trinity Oaks), Ann Tucker (Oak Park Retirement Room 236)

**Homebound/Shut-ins Members/Special Needs** –Tom Cole, Kiki Deaton, Rachel Earnhardt, Madison “Drew” Harrington, Linda Hartley, Pete Honbarrier, Howell and Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, Harold Miller, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

**Sick/Surgery/Recovery** – Judy Boyd, Ken Davis, Jason Earnhardt, Robin Huffman, Susan Knight, Doris Ludwick, Patsy Lyerly, Richard and Kay Lyons, Raelynn Rodgers, Brad Trexler & Pat Wiles

**Continual Prayer** – Rita Volker (Pastor Heidi’s aunt), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, SON Ministries, Slovakia & Haiti), Friends & Families of the avalanche victims (friends of Robyn Arey’s son), especially those affected by political unrest & those affected by natural disasters (Jamacia, Haiti, Alaska, North Dakota, Dominican Republic)

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**OUR MISSION:** Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally Grounded - Congregationally Focused (**Matthew 28:18-20**)

**OUR VISION:** Fellow Workers of the Gospel - Unified in Christ. (**3 John 1:8; Ephesians 4:15-16; Romans 15:15-16**)

**OUR ACTION PLAN:** Responsible management of God’s entrusted resources—time, talent, treasure & mission. (**Genesis 1 & 2**)

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