

# seeking:

*Can these  
bones live?*



**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

March 22, 2026

## Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We understand that being truly welcoming involves actively working against racism, heteronormativity, sexism, transphobia, ageism, ableism, classism, and other forces that seek to divide and oppress. We commit to continuing to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."  
-Romans 15:7

## Orientation to the Service

**This bulletin** will guide you through the entire service. Starting on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

**Hymns (songs)** are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

**Green-topped Welcome Cards** are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

**Children are welcome in worship!** God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children on a shelf in the back of the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

**Restrooms** can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. An all-gender, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the door to the kitchen.

**Online access** to the bulletin and hymns: [standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/](http://standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/)

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026 | 9:30 AM

*In Ezekiel's vision, God asks the prophet, "Can these bones live?" Do we believe new life can come after death? Can we find hope when things are bleak? Can we really trust in God's resurrection? While we look to God to carry us through the valley, God looks to us to embody hope for others. As we prepare to enter Holy Week, we remember how Jesus began his final journey toward resurrection: by returning to Judea after the death of his dear friend, Lazarus. As we walk through the valley of dry bones that leads us to Calvary Hill, let us seek out the hope that will stir in us and sustain us.*

PRELUDE

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus, arr. Barbara Kinyon  
Bells of Grace, directed by John Gladen*

***GATHERING***

*THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The congregation may stand.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

**Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?**

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

**Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?**

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

**So, come. Rest your weary bones.**

Let us worship Holy God.

## KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

*Pause for silent confession.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Jesus of Nazareth, we confess: We forget that you know this feeling. We forget that you, too, have wept. We forget that you, too, have lost. We forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity. Forgive us for all the times we place blame on you. Forgive us for all the times we create distance, imagining that you could never feel what we feel. Forgive us for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us. Pour yourself into the cracks in our hearts. Bring these bones back to life. Bring us closer to you. With gratitude we pray. Amen.**

*The KYRIE above is repeated.*

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God, pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, and God would still love you all the same. Even in your shortcomings, you are God's beloved.

So hear and believe this good news:

**We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## **WORD**

*GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING, AND SONG.*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Allison Bengfort

*Elementary-aged children (grades K-5) are invited to attend The Roots Children's Church, led by trained St. Andrew volunteers and located in the Children's Library downstairs. Parents are welcome to observe. The children will return to worship in time to receive communion.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together.

**Creator God, why is bad news so loud? In the midst of gun violence, hunger, melting ice caps, and anxiety, it often feels like suffering has a microphone. How do we hear you? How do we find you? How do we know that these bones can live? Today we bring our raw selves into this space asking that once more you would rush through this room like a mighty wind. Remind us that these bones can live. Speak to us in your still, small voice and let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day. Amen.**

### READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>God led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>God said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then God said to me, "Prophecy to 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: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on 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 had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and 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 God said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as God commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then God said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

POEM

"The Answer Is Yes" by Rev. Sarah Speed

It's the question we ask at the end of our rope,  
when the storm is raging,  
when the monsters under the bed have introduced themselves.

When everything around us seems to be on fire.

It's the question we ask when hope slips through like sand in a bottle,  
when the mockingbirds stop singing,  
when the news reporter leads with another mass shooting.

It's the question we ask when the depression moves in,  
making herself at home, making a mess of it all.

It's the question we ask  
when we're not sure if Easter will come.

*Will it be Lent forever?  
Will the sun ever rise?  
Will this hope lead to something?  
Can these bones ever live?*

*The congregation may stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

## GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having 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 Judeans were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jewish people had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <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 God will give you whatever you ask." <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. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>Those who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping and the mourners who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the crowd 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 have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because 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 looked upward and said, "God, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jewish people, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is seated.*

SERMON

Pr. Allison Bengfort

## WONDERING TIME

*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land | ELW 333

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (handshake, hug, peace sign, etc.).  
Placing your hands together in a praying position will signal to those around you that you prefer not to physically touch others.*

*The congregation is seated.*

## **MEAL**

*GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.*

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## INVITATION TO OFFERING

Siblings in Christ, we believe in a God who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives. As we offer our gifts today, we remember God's sustaining presence. I invite you to lift up an offering today as a sign of hope and an act of compassion that reflects the love of Christ.

*Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online by scanning the QR code to the right.*

*Thank you for your generosity!*



## OFFERING

*Dry Bones, arr. Mark Hayes  
St. Andrew Sisters*

*The congregation may stand.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

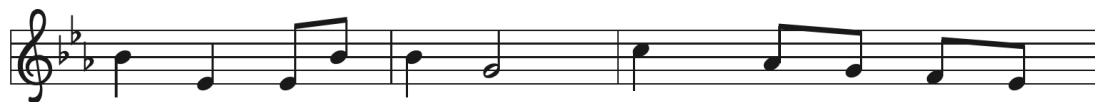
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## PREFACE

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



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



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

# THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All are invited to commune without exception! At the direction of an usher, those wishing to commune may proceed down the center aisle. A piece of gluten-free bread will be placed in your hands. You may dip the bread in the wine (red chalice) or the grape juice (light-colored chalice), or you may choose to partake of bread only. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please alert an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.*

## COMMUNION SONG

Be known to us Lord Je-sus, in the break-ing of the bread. Ho -

-sa - na, ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na. Be known to us Lord

Je-sus, in the break-ing of the bread. Ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na, ho -

-sa - - - na, ho - sa - na

*The congregation may stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.**

***SENDING***

*GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD.*

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## BLESSING

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.  
Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass.  
Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us.  
As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.  
In the name of our loving God, † who is always seeking us.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand | ELW 773

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you in your seeking.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



## Serving Today in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pr. Allison Bengfort  
Preacher: Pr. Allison Bengfort  
Assisting Minister:  
Acolytes: Cora Kalainoff, Evan Kalainoff  
Altar Guild: Noelle Mehlhorn  
Children's Church: Lindsay Delaney  
Communion Assistant:  
Lector: Kim Taylor-Blakemore

Musician: Karl Gustafson  
Nursery Assistant: Fran Miller  
Tech Team: Chase Isaacson  
Ushers:  
Welcome Team: Amy Fiegenbaum,  
Patty Jones, Kim Taylor-Blakemore  
Worship Coordinator:  
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

*"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" is used with permission from One License.*

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