



First Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 22, 2026 | Fifth Sunday in Lent



In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. 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. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN | *Behold Our God*

Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice. All creation rises to rejoice.

**Chorus: Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come, let us adore Him!**

Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His Words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds? **Chorus**

Who has felt the nails upon His hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave, Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign! **Chorus**

Bridge Choir and Worship Team sings this

**Chorus 2: Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come let us adore.**

**Chorus: Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come, let us adore Him!**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C : have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

KYRIE | *Create in Me a Clean Heart* | ELW #186

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE | *Glory be to God* | ELW pg 204, vs 1

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth. We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you, here on earth our songs we raise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

MUSICAL MESSAGE | *Lenten Meditation - Jay Althouse* | Jubilate Choir

RESPONSIVE PSALM | *Psalm 130*

R Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

C: O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

R: If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

C: Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

R: I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

C: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

R: O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

C: For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

SECOND READING | *Romans 8:6-11*

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL | *John 11:1-45*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 11th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ 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." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸ 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." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews 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. ³² 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." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ 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." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² 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." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ 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." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON | Pr. Matthew Rossler

HYMN OF THE DAY | *Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land* | ELW #333

**Refrain : Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in a time of storm.**

1. No one can do like Jesus, not a mumbling word he said;
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave, and he raised him from the dead. **Refrain**
2. When Jesus was on earth, the flesh was very weak;
he took a towel and girded himself and he washed his disciples' feet. **Refrain**
3. Yonder comes my Savior, him whom I love so well;
he has the palm of victory and the keys of death and hell. **Refrain**

STATEMENT OF FAITH | *Apostle's Creed*

C: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

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.

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING / NOISY OFFERING | *March: Becker County Food Pantry*

OFFERTORY SONG | *Holy, Holy, Holy* | ELW #473

1. Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God. **(Sing 2x)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG | *Rise Up (Lazarus)*

In the dark and all alone, growing comfortable, Are you too scared to move, and walk out of this tomb?
Buried underneath, the lies that you believed,
Safe and sound, stuck in the ground, too lost to be found. You're just asleep, and it's time to leave.

**Chorus: Come on and rise up, take a breath, you're alive now.
Can't you hear the voice of Jesus calling us, Out from the grave like Lazarus?
You're brand new, the pow'r of death couldn't hold you.
Can't you hear the voice of Jesus calling us, Out from the grave like Lazarus?
Rise up, rise up, rise up out from the grave like Lazarus.**

When He said your name, the thing that filled your veins
Was more than blood, it's the kind of love that washes sin away.
Now the door is open wide, the stones been rolled aside. The old is gone, the Light has come so **Chorus**

Bridge He's calling us to walk out of the dark. He's giving us new resurrected hearts. He's calling us to walk out of the dark. He's giving us new resurrected hearts. **Chorus**

Rise up, rise up, rise up out from the grave like Lazarus.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN IN THE DISCUSSION

*Sunday, April 15
@ 10:30am in the library*
Pr Joe, Pr Matthew and the confirmation students have been sharing questions with the congregation on Sunday mornings. Now you have an opportunity to join in the discussion. in an informal and fun environment!

PERSONAL CARE KITS

The Circles are collecting items to make Personal Care Kits through the end of May. Items needed are: *nail clippers, adult toothbrushes, combs, lightweight, dark colored bath towels & bath sized, bar soap.* A collection box is available outside of the church office.

DREAM BIG DONATIONS

Reminder, when writing a check, please write "Dream Big" or Capital Campaign" in the memo line of your check. Gifts denotate with "building" may be used for current repairs & maintenance and will not be used towards your pledge. Thanks!

THEOLOGY ON TAP

April 16 & 30 @ 7pm

Only two more sessions left until we break for summer. Join us at Buck's Mill for great conversation with great people! All are welcome.

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

*Tuesdays at 1 pm. in the library
Through May 3*

PIE AUCTION

Join us after worship **today** for this fun and delicious event. All funds will go towards our upcoming summer high school tip to Wolf Ridge.

WANT TO TRY CONFIRMATION AGAIN?

On select Wednesdays you can come to the sanctuary from 6:30-7:30pm and join our 7th & 8th graders for their confirmation lesson. Join us for the following lessons: **3/25: Theology: Baptism & Communion** **4/8: Theology: The Cross vs. Glory**

WELCA GATHERING

Ladies, join us on *April 14*, for the spring gathering at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena. Program begins at 9am and features Pr Lauryl Ivers. Look for more information coming soon!

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

*Wednesdays @ noon |
through March 25.*

Join us Wednesdays in Lent for worship and a study of the book of Psalms. A soup & sandwich lunch to follow the service each week.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to order flowers in honor/memory of a loved one to be displayed on Easter Sunday, order forms are now available. Forms are at the information table, by the office or scan the QR code to pay online. **Deadline to order is TODAY!**



Prayers for God's People

*Ongoing prayers for:
Bill Wegschied, Cole Woltjer,
Gretta Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry
Kjono, Tyler Wilson, Dave & Pam
Nustad, Cami Eckhoff, Kathy
Larson, the Blake Family, Ethan
Jacob, Dale and Ramona
Amundson, Bette Wammer.*

*Prayers of comfort for those who
mourn the loss of a loved one.*

EASTER at FLC

Palm Sunday |
March 29

Maundy Thursday | April 2
Worship services @ 12 & 6pm

Good Friday | April 3
Worship services @ 12 & 6pm

Easter Sunday
Worship services @ 8:30,
9:30 & 10:30am

Thanks for worshipping with us!



Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo
Associate Pastor: Matthew Rossler
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

Prefer electronic giving? Scan the **QR code to give online.** Then, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate.



MEMBERSHIP

Interested in becoming a member of FLC? New members are welcome all year, however, our **next New Member Welcome is May 3 & 6.**

GIVE ONLINE

