



March 22, 2026 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

AS WE GATHER

For our Sundays in Lent, we are focusing on the theme of repentance. That is, that we should turn away from sin, away from the world, away from ourselves, and turn to Jesus Christ expecting to receive help and all good things from Him. To do so, each Sunday we will reflect on one of the Psalms of ascent. **This morning**, we turn to Psalm 130, which teaches us to turn to Jesus out of the depths, crying to Him to hear our pleas for mercy. “If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared” (Psalm 130:3-4).

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 440, “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now,” stanzas 1-3*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES; CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: For the Sundays in Lent this year, we focus on the theme of repentance; we turn away from our sin. We turn towards God our Savior. We turn to Jesus to be our helper and our keeper.

People: **We lift our eyes to the hills. Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth, who is our keeper.**

Pastor: We turn to Jesus, expecting to receive mercy from Him.

People: **Our eyes look to You, O Lord, until you have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: We turn to Jesus, trusting in Him.

People: **Those who trust in the Lord are like mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.**

Pastor: We turn to Jesus, knowing that apart from Him, our labors are in vain.

People: **Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.**

Pastor: We turn to Jesus out of the depths, crying to Him to hear our pleas for mercy.

People: **If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

Pastor: We take a moment of silence to cry out to our Lord, asking Him for mercy.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord! Hear our plea for mercy: We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son,**

Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: If our Lord should mark iniquities, who could stand? But with Him there is forgiveness. Therefore, almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

All: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 440, "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now," stanzas 4-6*

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ 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." ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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." ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.' ¹² 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. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ 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."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 130*

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

People: **O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

Pastor: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

People: **my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

Pastor: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

People: **And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

EPISTLE READING *Romans 8:1–11*

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ 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, ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ 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. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, 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 also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING *John 11:17-27, 38-53*

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 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. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ... ³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ 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." 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 lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² 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." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ 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." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ 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." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ 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." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN *LSB 607, "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee" (Melody: LSB 492)*

SERMON *"Turn to Jesus, expecting forgiveness" (Psalm 130)*

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 781, "We Give Thee But Thine Own"*

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answer us, O Lord.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

All: **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.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *LSB 919, "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Opening sentences and confession/absolution adapted from Psalms 121, 123, 125, 127, and 130 (ESV) and the confession/absolution in Divine Service setting 1 (LSB 151). Service adapted from Divine Service Setting 4 (LSB 203-212).



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of March 22, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

**Family for the Week: Joe & Debbie Lynn
Immanuel, Joplin - Rev. Christopher Ramstad**

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Tammy Ardrey (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
Becky – (daughter of Diane and Bill Thompson)
Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
Opal Bulow (niece of Linda Myers)
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)
Sara Drewianka – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing from accident)
Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son to Teri)
McGee family – (health and healing)
Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoyer–Wolf)

Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)
Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son–in–law's mother)
Donnie Munden – (brother–in–law of Cathy Munden)
Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Joe Pennington – (brother–in–law of Bill Michel – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
Tim Tucek– (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken–hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Betty Gordon – (health and healing)
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)
Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister–In–Law – health & healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
Bill Thompson – (health and healing)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

Sunday

March 22nd

WEEK

Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am

		Fellowship – 9:30 am Service – 10:00 am
Monday	March 23 rd	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Wednesday	March 25 th	Lenten Lunch: United Methodist Church in Aurora Service - 6:00 pm
Thursday	March 26 th	Pastor's Day off & confirmation - 5:30 pm
Saturday	March 28 th	Aurora Business Expo Bauer Easter Dinner - 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Sunday	March 29 th	Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service – 10:00 am Pot Luck Lunch after service

Birthdays: Mar. 24-Cindy Swoyer-Wolf & David Lampe; Mar. 25-David Hoaglan; Mar. 26-Kelsey Robertson

Anniversaries: Mar. 25-Scott & Tammy Stafford

March

GREETERS:

22: Matthew Springer & Emily Ernest

29: Charlie & Edee Chambers

USHERS:

22: David Lampe

29: Rob Springer



Sheltering Hope is an organization here in Aurora. They recently voted to form the following committees in 2026 to meet their goals: Jobs committee, Mentorship committee, and Transportation committee. If you are interested in learning more about Sheltering Hope and/or serving on one of the committees, please see Pastor Heitshusen for more

details.

Jodi Wright needs pictures of Grace's Ministry teams, individuals in the group and a short summary of activities for our web site. If you have specific questions, please contact Jodi.

Transportation Help Needed: One of our shut-ins is in need of transportation help to and from her doctors' appointments. We would like to have a list of people who are willing to help. You would **not** be signing up to be a driver for every appointment. You would only be signing up to be on the list of individuals willing to be contacted, if needed. Please contact Pastor Heitshusen if you are willing to put your name in the list and/or if you have any questions.

The **LWML** is having an in-gathering for Trinity Lambs Cottage Daycare in Freistatt. A list of items requested is in the narthex. Items will be collected until March 29th. If you have questions, please ask Edith.

The **LWML Spring Social** is scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd, in Rockville. An invitation is posted in the narthex. Everyone is invited to attend. If you have questions, or would like to attend, please talk with Edith.

Lenten Lunch: All of them will be held at the United Methodist Church in Aurora every Wednesday during Lent starting Feb. 25. They will all begin at noon.