

**LEADER SCRIPT**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Communion, ELW Setting Four**  
**April 6, 2025**

**PRELUDE**

*You Are Near*

by Reuben Morgan

*In awe of You, we worship, and stand amazed at Your great love. We're changed from glory to glory. We set our hearts on You, our God.. Now Your presence fills this place, be exalted in our praise. As we worship I believe You are near. (repeat) Blessing and honour and glory and power forever, forever. (repeat) In awe of You, we worship.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

God of all grace, be near in the midst of our brokenness, turning us from the things that keep us from right relationship with you, ourselves, and one another.

Compel us toward compassion as we confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and are strengthened to serve in your name.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

**you delight in goodness and judge sin.**

**Give us open and honest hearts**

**to recognize the ways we have turned from you,  
from our own belovedness, and from one another.**

**We see the world through the lens of scarcity  
instead of your lens of abundance.**

**We see people as us and them  
instead of one body in you.**

**We participate in the brokenness of the world,  
caught in webs beyond individual choices of right and wrong.  
Quiet our inner and outer strife, O God,  
and draw us into your forgiveness and wholeness.  
Through your divine love,  
transform all that threatens to destroy  
the good that you have created.**

Beloved people of God:  
At a table that Jesus sets,  
God forgives us and feeds us with love eternal.  
In water and promise,  
God brings us to new life  
and breathes into us gifts to serve the world.  
You are forgiven, in the name of Christ +,  
who calls us into the coming of God's reign  
where all are supported, nourished, and loved.  
**Amen.**

# ENTRANCE SONG

*Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

by Brian Doerkson



Come, now is the time to wor - ship.



Come, now is the time to give your heart.



Come, just as you are to wor - ship.



Come, just as you are be - fore your God.

## Fine



Come. One day ev-'ry tongue will con- fess You are God.



One day ev - 'ry knee will bow.



Still, the great - est treas - ure re - mains for those who glad -

## D.C. to Fine



- ly praise You now.

# APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of goodness, you love your whole creation, and you make the broken whole. Give us hearts to recognize the broken places in ourselves and the world, that we may join in the healing work of Christ, in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

*(be seated)*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Pastor Amy Gillespie

### **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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 126** (*spoken responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> **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.”**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup> **Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup> Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**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.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand as you are able)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, Your God for he is gra-cious and  
5 mer - ci - ful slow to an - ger  
8 and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(be seated)*

**SERMON**

Pastor Amy Gillespie

*(please stand as you are able)*

**SONG OF THE DAY**

*The Wonderful Cross*

by Watts/Walt/Mason/Reeves/Tomlin

1. When I sur-vey the\_ won- drous cross on which the prince of\_ glo - ry\_ died,  
9 2. See, from his head, his\_ hands, his\_ feet, sor - row and love flow min - gled\_ down.

17 my rich-est gain I\_ count but\_ loss, and pour con-tempt on all my\_ pride. O the\_  
Did e'er such love and\_ sor - row\_ meet, or thorns com-pose so rich a\_ crown.

won - der-ful cross! O the\_ won - der-ful cross bids me come and die and find that I may tru-ly live.

24 O the\_ won - der - ful cross! O the\_ won - der - ful cross, all who

29 ga - ther here by grace draw near and bless your name.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 1. When I sur-vey the\_ won- drous cross on which the prince of\_ glo - ry\_ died, 2. See, from his head, his\_ hands, his\_ feet, sor - row and love flow min - gled\_ down. my rich-est gain I\_ count but\_ loss, and pour con-tempt on all my\_ pride. O the\_ Did e'er such love and\_ sor - row\_ meet, or thorns com-pose so rich a\_ crown. won - der-ful cross! O the\_ won - der-ful cross bids me come and die and find that I may tru-ly live. O the\_ won - der - ful cross! O the\_ won - der - ful cross, all who ga - ther here by grace draw near and bless your name.

## **APOSTLES' 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**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. We pray especially for all on our prayer list and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for prayer*) . . .

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.**

We pray for all members, especially Siri Eck, and the Marsch family. We thank you for them and we ask your blessings on them.

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.**

*The prayers conclude:*

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.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(please share signs of peace with one another)*

*(be seated)*

## **OFFERTORY**

*We Fall Down*

by Chris Tomlin  
Youth Choir & Damascus Road

*We fall down, we lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus. The greatness of mercy and love at the feet of Jesus. And we cry holy, holy, holy, and we cry holy, holy, holy, and we cry holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.*

*(please stand as you are able)*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God,

You have blessed us with gifts of abundance and joy.

Open our hearts so that we may share your goodness  
with all who hunger for bread, for safety, and for belonging.

In Christ's name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up our 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.**

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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**

**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.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God of love.

You birthed all creation,

and became human for us in Jesus Christ.

You speak to us through Scripture and Spirit;

Your love is eternal.

Meet us now in bread, wine, and water.

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.

In this meal, we remember your Son Jesus,

who took on our pain and suffering

and transformed it into new life.

Send your Spirit to meet us now.

Compel your whole creation toward mercy,

and fill us all with your everlasting and wide-reaching love.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

*(Be seated)*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*For this special service of First Communion, we invite the families participating in First Communion to come forward first, receive Communion and return to their seats. After which we invite the Congregation to come forward and gather around the table for Communion.*

*Our Lord Jesus welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink. Those who are not able to consume wine are able to commune fully by receiving only the wafer. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children may come and receive a blessing and/or communion.*

*Come forward in two lines up the main aisle. Communion will be at the rails. Please receive a cup from the Usher, then go to the rail and kneel. The wafer will be placed in your hand, then please hold your cup up so the Communion Assistant may pour the wine. Return to your seat by the side aisles. If you are unable to come to the rail, please let an Usher know and the Pastor will come to you so you can receive the bread and the wine.*

## **LAMB OF GOD**

O Christ the Lamb of God, have mer-cy on\_ us. O Christ the  
Lamb of God, grant peace and joy. O Christ the Lamb of God,  
have mer - cy on \_ us; grant peace and joy, we pray.

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **WORDS AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,

We give you thanks for the abundance of your steadfast love. As we are filled with your grace and mercy, send us out into the world to participate in your reign of peace. In the name of Christ, the holy one, we pray.

Amen.

## SPECIAL BLESSING of Sewing Group Teddy Bears

### BLESSING

May the God who delights in your goodness  
bless you, keep you, and hold you  
in the depths of love and mercy.

In the name of the Triune God +

Amen.

### SENDING SONG

*Life in His Hands*

by Handt Hanson



All of the world will be sing - ing\_ when ev - 'ry - one un - der - stands that  
of - fer ex - ten - ded in mer - cy\_ to peo - ple who need a friend is



Je - sus is here, and he's giv - ing us\_ new life in His hands. The  
found in the palm of the Sav - ior's hand. There's life in His hands,



life in His hands; in His hands there's life for you.



Life\_ in His hands for you and me.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Know that you are loved.

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*The River is Here*

by Andy Park  
Youth Choir & Damascus Road

*Down the mountain the river flows and it brings refreshing wherever it goes. Through the valleys and over the fields the river is rushing and the river is here. **The river of God sets our feet a dancing, the river of God fills our hearts with cheer. The river of God fills our mouths with laughter, and we rejoice for the river is here.** The river of God is teeming with life and all who touch it can be revived, and those who linger on this river's shore will come back thirsting for more of the Lord. **Chorus** Up to the mountain we love to go to find the presence of the Lord. Along the banks of the river we run, we dance with laughter giving praise to the Son. **Chorus***

Source Documents For the Bulletin

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