

PLATTVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH
5475 Bell Road
Minooka, Illinois 60447

March 22, 2026
9:15 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in Lent

O, COME LET US WORSHIP THE LORD!

* Indicates that the congregation will stand.

PREPARATION Enter to worship

THE PRELUDE/BELL RINGING

Announcements

*The CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS p. 94

*The OPENING HYMN
"What Wondrous Love is This" #666

*The APOSTOLIC GREETING p. 98

*The KYRIE p. 98

Lay Minister

Henrik Christopherson

Ministers

All Members

Lector

Kim Kurtz

PRAYER AND PRAISE

* The HYMN OF PRAISE p. 99

*The PRAYER OF THE DAY *Celebrate insert*

Head Ushers

Darrell Hansen

Bob Bols

Bruce Knudson

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The FIRST LESSON Ezekial 37:1-14

The PSALM Psalm 130 *Celebrate insert*

The SECOND LESSON Rómans 8:6-11

The ALLELUIA VERSE p. 102

*The HOLY GOSPEL John 11:1-45

SERMON

*The HYMN OF THE DAY
"Christ, the Life of All the Living" #339

*The APOSTLES' CREED p. 105

*The PRAYERS

*The SHARING OF THE PEACE

The OFFERING

*The OFFERTORY "Create in Me" *Insert in pew*

*The OFFERTORY PRAYER p. 107

*The LORD'S PRAYER p. 112

Church Office

475-7220

BACK INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF LIFE

*The BENEDICTION

*The CLOSING HYMN

"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death" #452

*The DISMISSAL/POSTLUDE

Depart to serve



Celebrate

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

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.

Prayer of the Day

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. **Amen.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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."

⁷So 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy 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." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he 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.' ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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."



I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope.

Out ¹ of the depths

I cry to ¹ you, O LORD;

²O LORD, ¹ hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my ¹ supplication.

³If you were to keep watch ¹ over sins,

O LORD, ¹ who could stand?

⁴Yet with you ¹ is forgiveness,

in order that you ¹ may be feared. R

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; ¹ my soul waits;

in your word ¹ is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord

more than those who keep watch ¹ for the morning,

more than those who keep watch ¹ for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is ¹ steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plen- ¹ teous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall ¹ redeem Israel**

from ¹ all their sins. R

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But 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." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus 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. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When 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." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The 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. ³²When 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." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The 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."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives (*local places in nature may be named*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized (*especially*). Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We offer our thanksgiving for (*Jonathan Edwards and*) all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 143. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980) 2 Kings 4:18-37. **Wednesday** (Annunciation of Our Lord) Luke 1:26-38. **Thursday** Psalm 31:9-16. **Friday** Philippians 1:21-30. **Saturday** Mark 10:32-34. **Passion/Palm Sunday** (commemoration of Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824) Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54.

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Tracks 1 and 2

PARISH CALENDAR

Today 9:15 Worship

Wednesday, March 25th – Lenten supper/service
6:00 supper 7:00 worship

Thursday, April 2nd – Maundy Thursday service 6:00 potluck
supper (please bring a dish to pass) 7:00 worship with
communion

Friday April 3, 2026 10:00 AM - Three Rivers Ministerial Association
annual Cross Walk Free and open to all the community.
Channahon United Methodist Church
24751 W. Eames (Rt. 6), Channahon, IL 60410
*Jesus tells the Apostles "Come away by yourselves to
a secluded place and rest awhile."* Cross Walk is an opportunity
to commemorate Jesus' walk to Golgotha before his crucifixion.

Sunday, April 5th – Easter Sunday 8:00 breakfast with freewill
offering 9:15 Worship service with communion

Monday, April 13th 7:00 pm Church council meeting

Sunday, April 19th Installation of church council officers

During Lent we will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief
Personal Care Kits. Please see bulletin board for what items to
collect. We mainly need light weight or medium weight towels and
soap - 4 oz bath bars in original wrapping work best - 2 per kit.
Thank you!

Want to hear and sing your favorite hymn? There is a box in the
entryway – fill out a sheet with what you want to hear.

IMPORTANT! It has come to our attention that one or more of the
church doors has been left unlocked (on several occasions). Please
remember to lock the door(s) when you leave. Also, if you use the
lock box to access the key, make sure you move the dial to change
the numbers so they do not stay on the "open code"! Thank you!

March 11th Lent service (World Hunger) \$79.00 March 15th
offering: Current \$2,490.00 Mission \$370.00 Kendall Co
Food Pantry \$25.00 Bldg Use \$50.00 Bldg Fund \$10.00

Thank you for your support!

Roll the Stone Away

You can understand why they don't want to roll the stone away. "Already there is a stench," Martha says (John 11:39). Why open the grave? Why let out that smell? There could be no purpose. After all, Lazarus is dead.

This is not unbelief. "I believe that you are the Messiah," Martha says (v. 27), confident that her brother would one day rise again. But it is a faith that desperately wants God to provide an escape from suffering and struggle: "If you had been here," both sisters say, "my brother would not have died" (vv. 21, 32). The presence of Jesus, they think, should protect them from pain and death.

What they don't understand, though, is that the places of pain and suffering are exactly where Jesus goes. He enters dead places to bring hope to life. He transforms the stench of decay into an aroma of thriving. He summons Lazarus out of the tomb to walk into freedom.

This is why Jesus tells them to take away the stone. He wants to open the place that they are convinced holds only grief, and to expose what they believe to be a shameful smell. Yes, it is difficult to face. However, only when the grave is opened can Lazarus respond to Jesus' call. Martha and Mary must remove the stone that hides what they do not want to bear, so that new life can emerge from the tomb.

What are the stone-covered places in your life? What are the places in your heart that you are convinced hold only pain, decay, and fear? In the tender love of Jesus, you do not need to hide them. Jesus is calling you to open them. He will enter these places with resurrection power, transforming death into life and shame into glory. Facing these tombs takes courage. But you can trust that Jesus will bring healing to your brokenness. He is in the business of calling the dead back to life. Let the stones be rolled away.