St. Martin's Lutheran Church

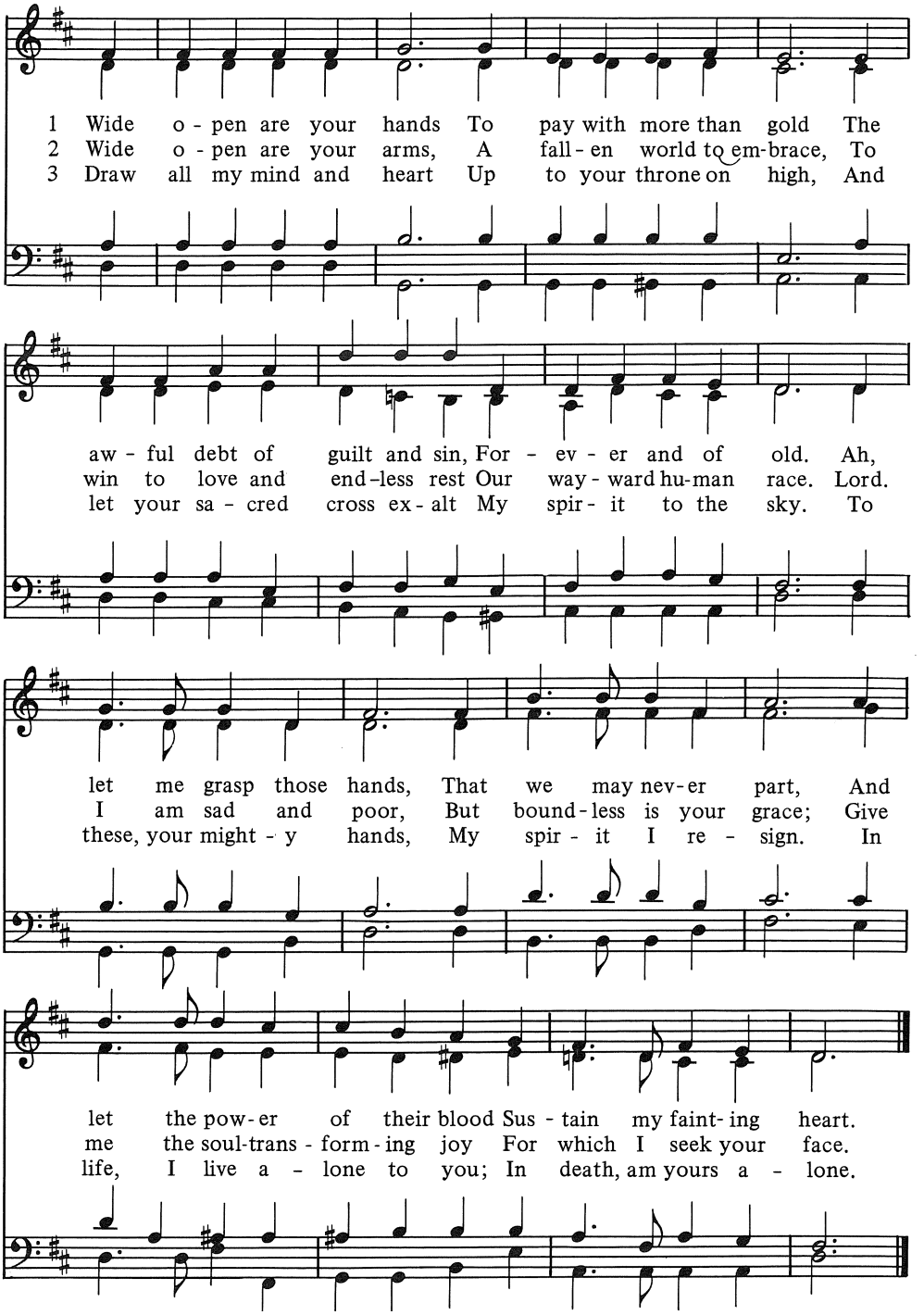
203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502

www.the-welcome-place.org

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

"Wide Open Are Your Hands"

Please sing Unison on Verse 3

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.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE ***"Ciacona"*** **-** Dietrich Buxtehude

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"Wide Open Are Your Hands"

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen
"Return to me with all your heart," says the Lord.
Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love *(Joel 2:12-13)*
God so loved the world that while we were yet sinners Jesus Christ was given to die for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are held captive to the power of sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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

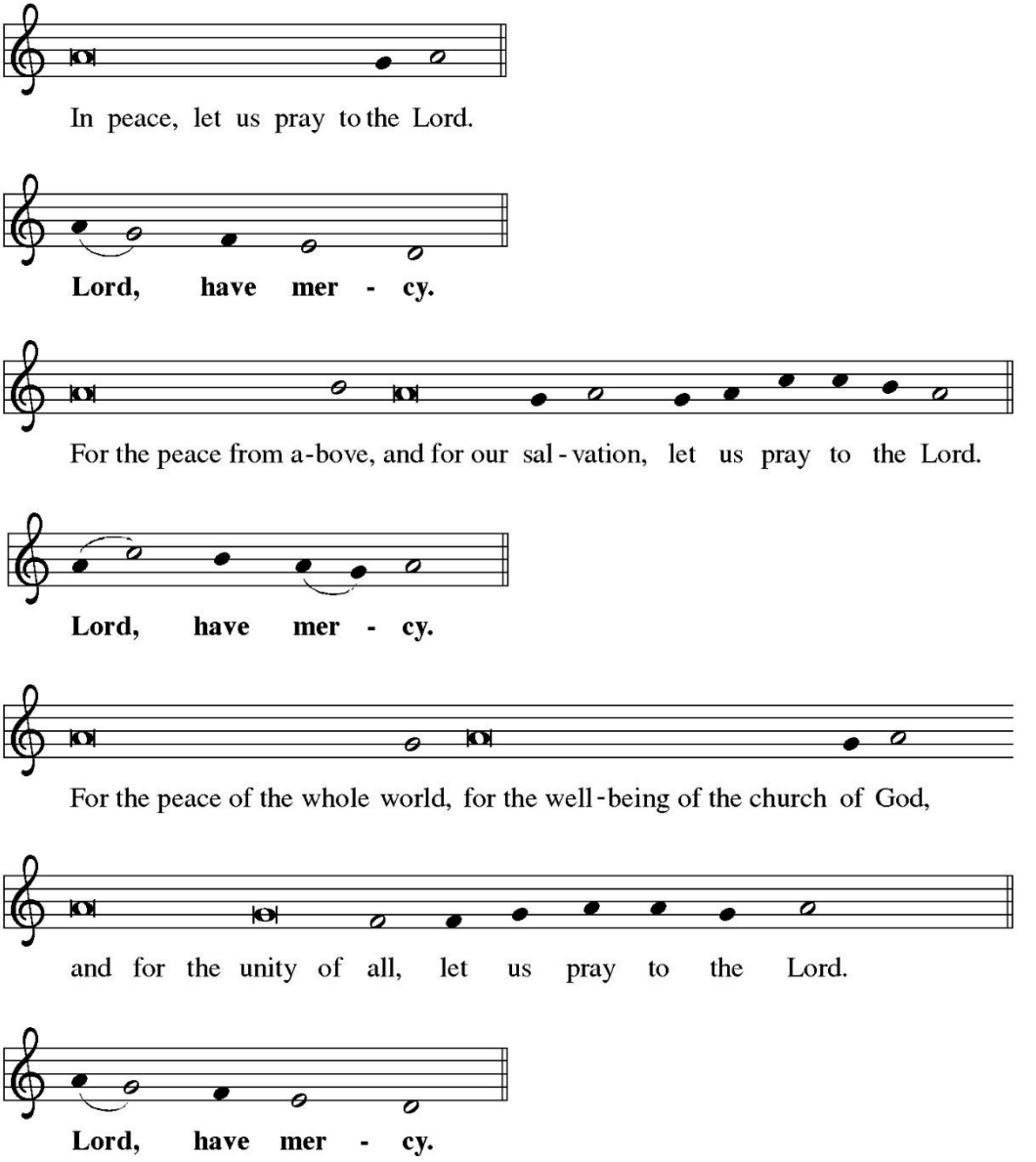
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

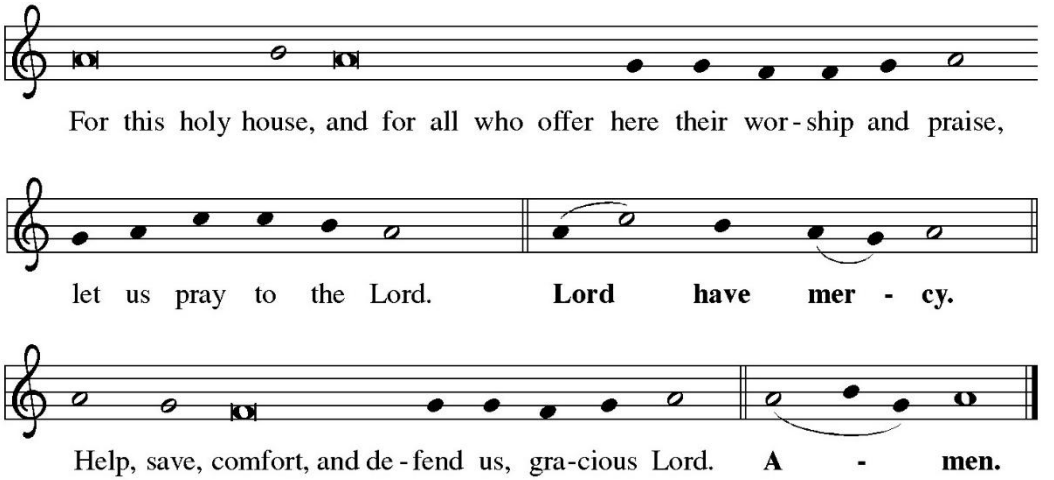
*GREETING

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.

*KYRIE





*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING — Ezekiel 37:1-14

[1]The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. [2]He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. [3]He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

[4]Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! [5]This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. [6]I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

[7]So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. [8]I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin 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 it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" [10]So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

[11]Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' [12]Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. [13]Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. [14]I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Romans 8:6-11

6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. **7** For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. **8** That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

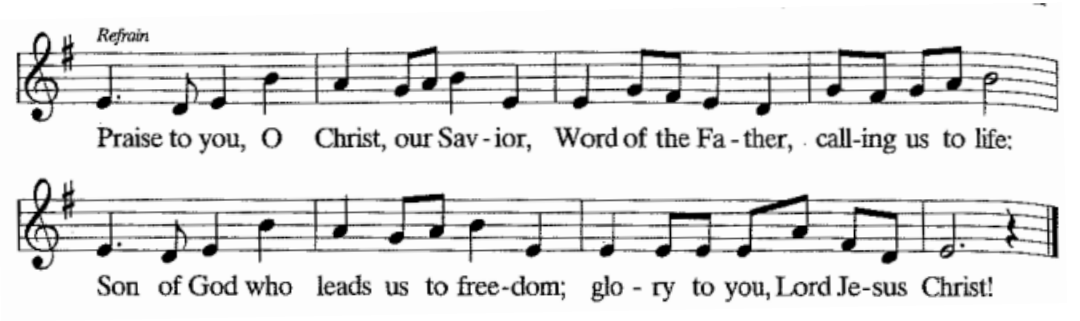
9But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) **10**And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been

made right with God. 11The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

New Living Translation

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir: *You are the Word who calls us to be servants;*
you are the Word whose only law is love;
you are the Word made flesh who lives among us:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! ***Refrain***

*HOLY GOSPEL — John 11:1-45

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord!

1Now 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." [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.

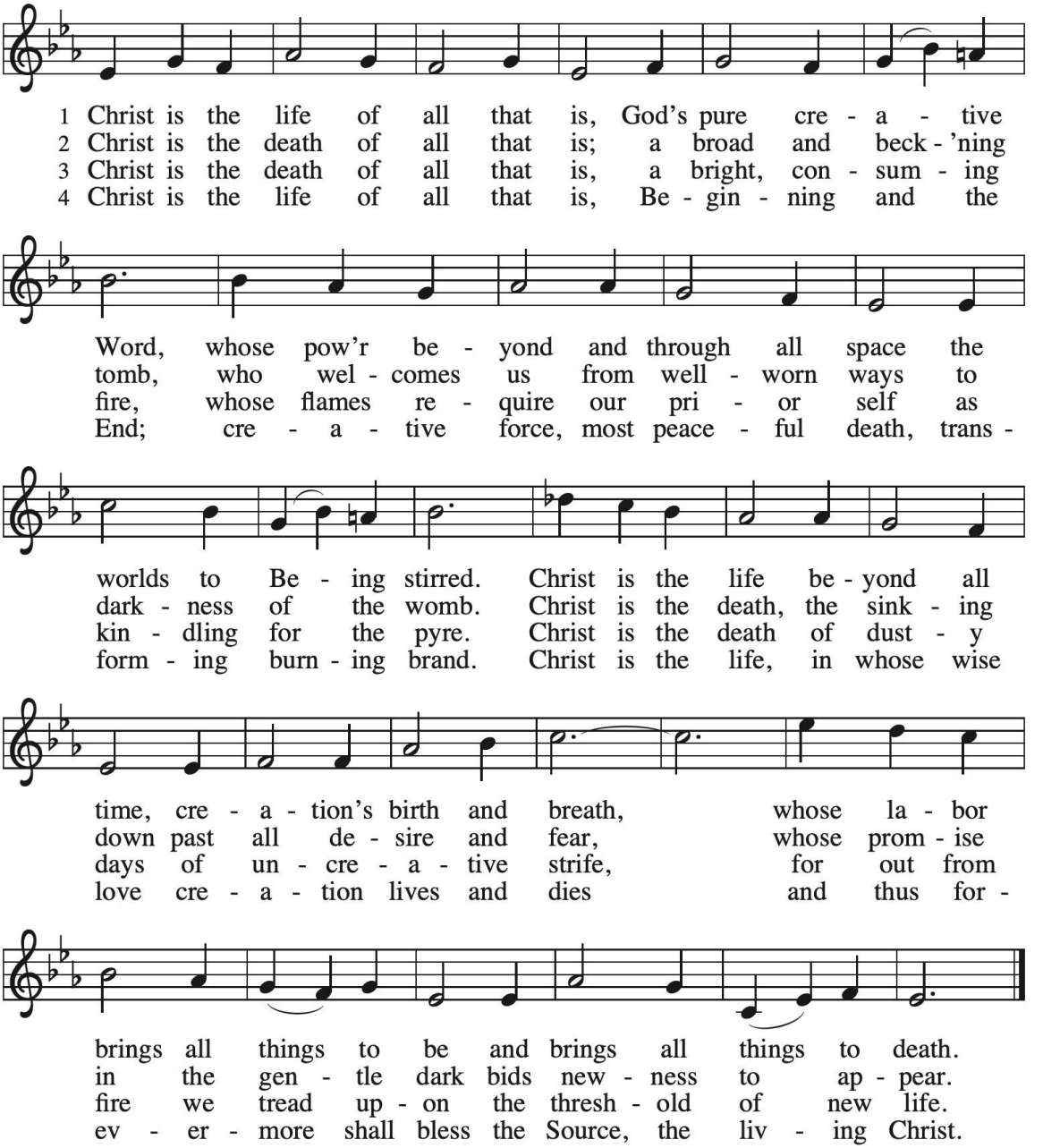
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ***MacKenna Whitacre***

MESSAGE ***"Expect the Unexpected"***

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Christ is the Life"

(Please remain seated during the hymn introduction)

*PROFESSION OF FAITH – *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 into hell.
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

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. *(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")*

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Chancel Choir ***"God Be in My Head"***

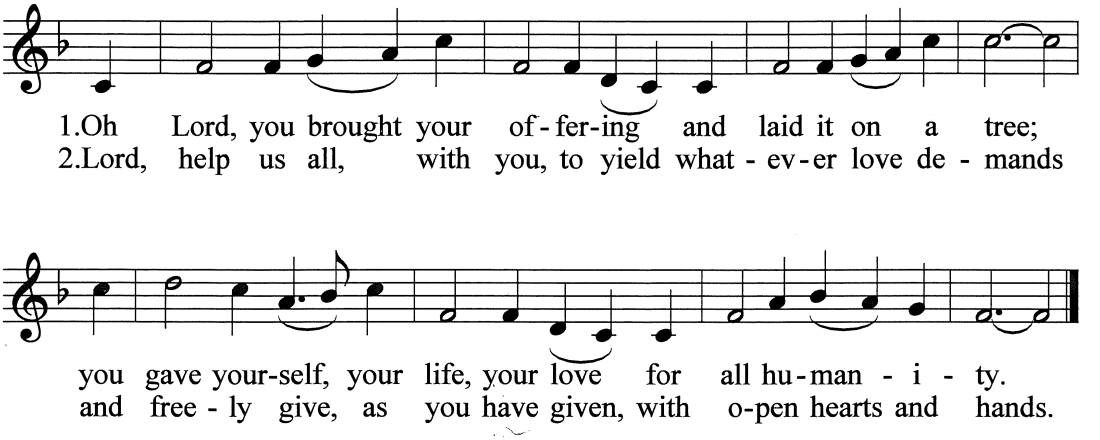
Robert A. Hobby

God be in my head,
And in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;

God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;

God be at my end,
And at my departing.

*Offertory



*Prayers of the Church

*Each petition ends…*Lord, in your mercy…**hear our prayer.**

*The Lord's Prayer

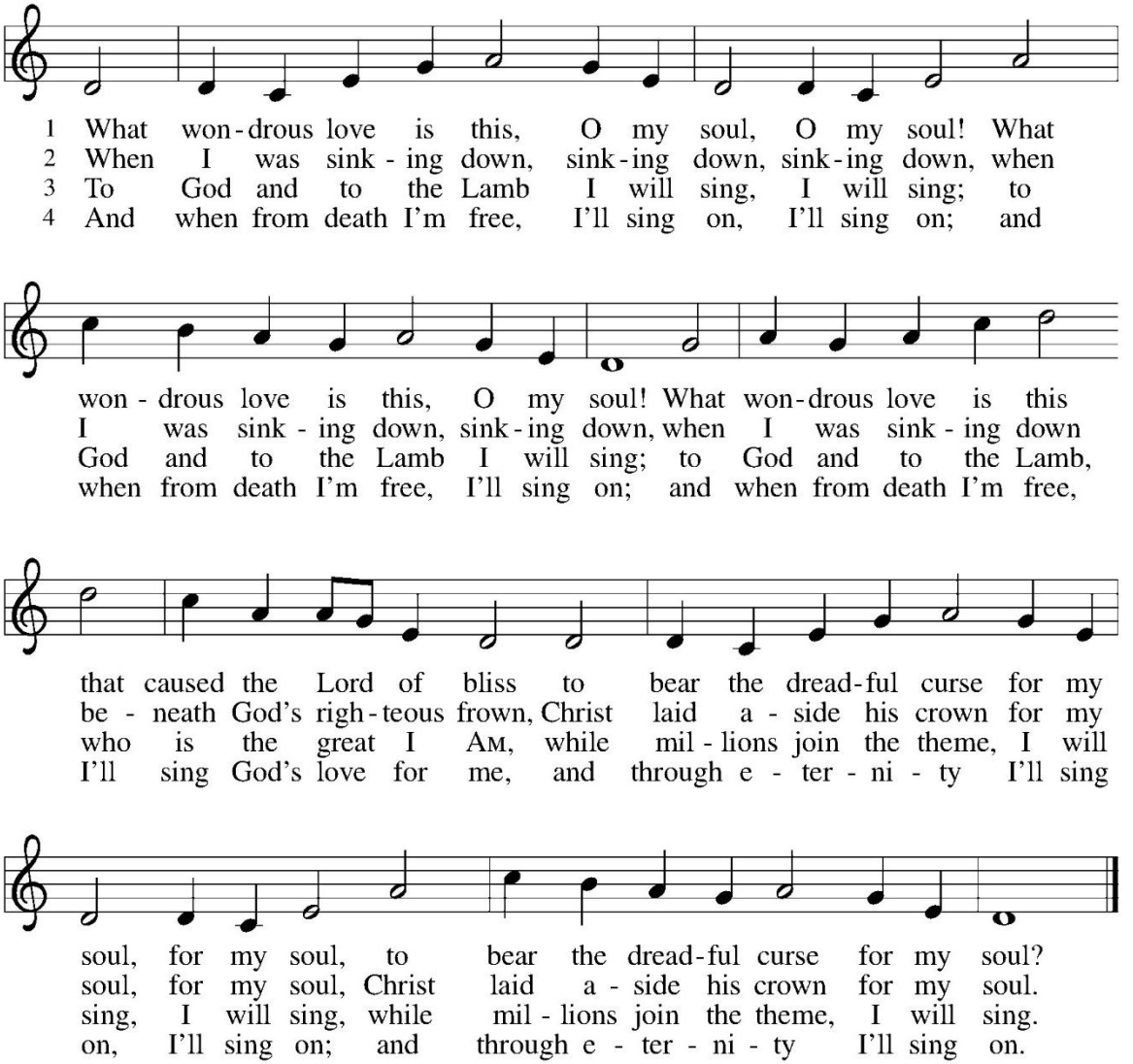
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

We Are Sent to Serve

* Benediction

As you go on your way may Christ go with you.
Christ before you to lead you;
Christ behind you to encourage you;
Christ beside you to befriend you;
Christ above you to watch over you;
Christ within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*Closing Hymn — *"What Wondrous Love is This"*

Verse 3 – Choir Only

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Elli Benecke
Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Lector	-Chris Ziegler
Usher Team Leader	-Aaron Short
Sound System	-Darren Sonnenberg
Altar Guild	-Jan Delaney & Janet Wyse
Offering Counters	-Jay Schnitkey & Jo Ann Liechty

The St. Martin's Webstore is open! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email, or scan the QR code provided.

We are looking for people who would like to **provide the Wednesday Night meals**. Erinn Thompson is organizing this, so you can contact her if you would like to help. You can also scan the QR code provided or click the link in your Friday email to sign up!

Monday Night Bible Study continues exploring Luther's Small Catechism with the Lord's Prayer, also the theme for our Wednesday Lenten worship this year. This is an informal discussion-based format on Zoom! No previous experience required, jump in when you can. Send Steve an email if you'd like to join.

Mission Team Update: We are back. Thanks for all the support and prayers from the congregation. Our mission trip to Puerto Rico was a great success in many ways. The mission team spent 8 days in Puerto Rico putting on a new roof for Jose through Techos pa' mi gente. Jose has been living with family since the Hurricane in 2017. This will give him and his son a fresh start. This is the 5th house that St. Martin has been involved with through TPMG. It has been exciting to see how they have grown over the years as their organization has increased its reach. Now they are training local people in construction trades to be more prepared for the next hurricane to be rebuilt quicker. We plan on hosting a coffee hour soon to show some pictures and videos. Ask any of the team members about their experience.
Team members are: Bill & Diane Phelps, Albert & Yanira Reyes, Darren & Jane Sonnenberg, Aaron & Gabe Short, Aden McCarty, Jane Trudel, Barry Johns, Mike Short and JoAnn Liechty.

March is FISH Food Pantry Ingathering Month at St. Martin's. . . If you would like to donate items, place them on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your offering envelope FISH for monetary donations.

Spring Cleaning? Puzzles, fidgets, simple games? If those items happen to be in that cleaning out process, please consider donating them to the new ***After School Tutoring*** *(AST)* ministry here at St. Martin's. Our next session is March 18th. Simply put those items on a table in the Fellowship Hall and label them ***AST*** and we'll make good use of them. *You are appreciated!*

2026 Puerto Rico Mission Trip-Thanks for all the support and prayers from the congregation for our mission trip. This is the 5th house that St. Martin has been involved with through TPMG. We have been working with the organization since 2018. It has been exciting to see how they have grown over the years as their organization has increased its reach. We will be hosting a coffee hour on March 29th to show some pictures and videos. Be sure to attend to see what St. Martin has done over the years.
Team members are: Bill & Diane Phelps, Albert & Yanira Reyes, Darren & Jane Sonnenberg, Aaron & Gabe Short, Aden McCarty, Jane Trudel, Barry Johns, Mike Short and JoAnn Liechty.

Coming Up: Burger Bash, Sunday, May 3rd – Ruihley Park. It's our community-wide ecumenical mission fundraiser to help improve lives in rural communities around the world through Growing Hope Globally.

This Week at St. Martin's

Sunday – March 22-Fifth Sunday in Lent
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

Monday- March 23
Adult Zoom Study, 7pm

Tuesday – March 24
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday- March 25
Welcome Place Meal, 5:15pm
Adult Circle, 6pm
Kids Club, 6pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Catechism, 6:15pm
Lenten Worship, 7pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday- March 26
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – March 29-Palm Sunday
Worship, 9am
Puerto Rico Coffee Hour. 10:15am
Sunday School, 10:20am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

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Office Hours:

Pastor Steve Basselman
steveb@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning
Tues, Wed, Thurs, afternoon
Cell Phone: 419-572-6091

Matthew Wachtman, Music & Worship
matthew@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs. All Day
Wed. PM

Jake Keil, **Youth**
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
Sun, Tues, Thurs. morning
Mon, Tues, Wed. afternoon & Sunday PM

Whitney Wyse, Office Manager
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org
Tues. 8:30-12:00 & Fri. 8:30-12

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday, live broadcast on Facebook
6:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

We welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. – Romans 15:7

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one-time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

Last Week at St. Martin's. . .
Week of 3/15/2026, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$9,874.58	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,381.00
Benevolence Received	$1,130.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$760.00
Other Designated Income	$495.00	**AS OF 1/31/2026**	
Total Income	$11,499.58	YTD Operating Received	$42,162.37
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	94/60/154	YTD Operating Expenses	($71,799.89)
		Net Income/(Deficit)	$(29,637.52)