

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

March 21-22, 2026

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

AS WE GATHER

While Lent focuses on Christ's suffering and upcoming death, these Readings turn to the resurrection and life. Ezekiel takes us to the valley of the dry bones, and we hear the promise "you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves" (Ezekiel 37:13). Romans 8 finishes with the promise "He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (v. 11). John 11 tells of Lazarus coming out of the tomb after four days, but the climax comes earlier when Jesus declares He is the resurrection and life. Psalm 130 starts with a cry from the depths to God that asks the Lord to be attentive to our pleas, but it ends with the hope we have in the Lord. Every Sunday, including those in Lent, is a celebration of Christ's resurrection.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "Jesus Lives! The Vict'ry's Won" Paul Manz

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "Jesus Lives! The Vict'ry's Won" *LSB 490*
Verses 1-3, 5

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 130:1-4*

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.

Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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

People: Most merciful God, we cry to You from the depths of our sin. We were born into those depths and need Your Word to call us out of them. We have sinned against You with our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our inactions. We have lived according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. From the depths, we wait for You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, deliver our soul from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. 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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. You are precious in His sight because Christ is in you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PSALM *Psalm 130; antiphon: v. 7*

Pastor: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

People: and with Him is plentiful redemption.

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,
People: and with Him is plentiful redemption.

Pastor: And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
People: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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

HYMN OF PRAISE (Omitted)

(Worship note: During Advent and Lent the Hymn of Praise and Alleluias are omitted as a “restraint” of the season)

✕ WORD ✕

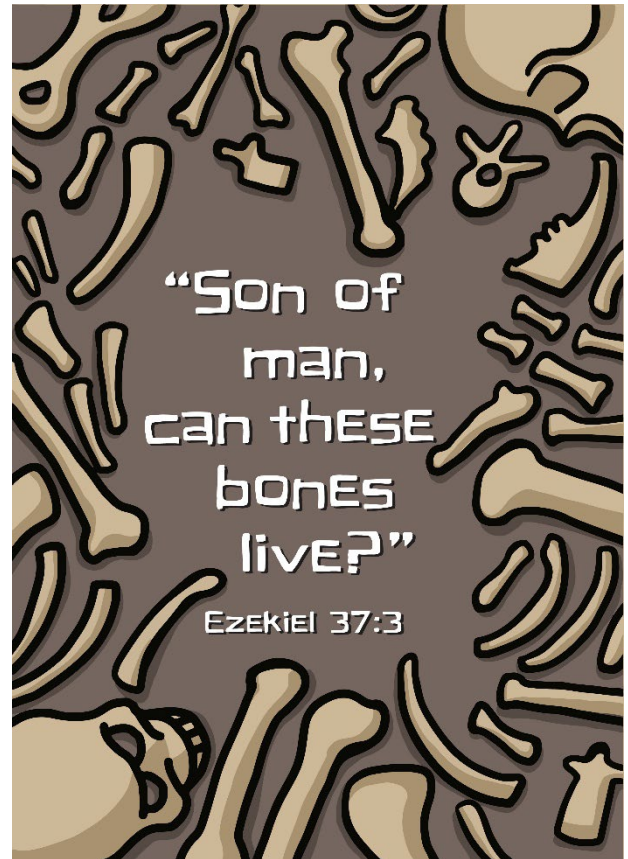
Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

(Ezekiel prophesies over the bones, and the Lord brings them to life.)

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. 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. And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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.”

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. 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. 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.” 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.



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.’ 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 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.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

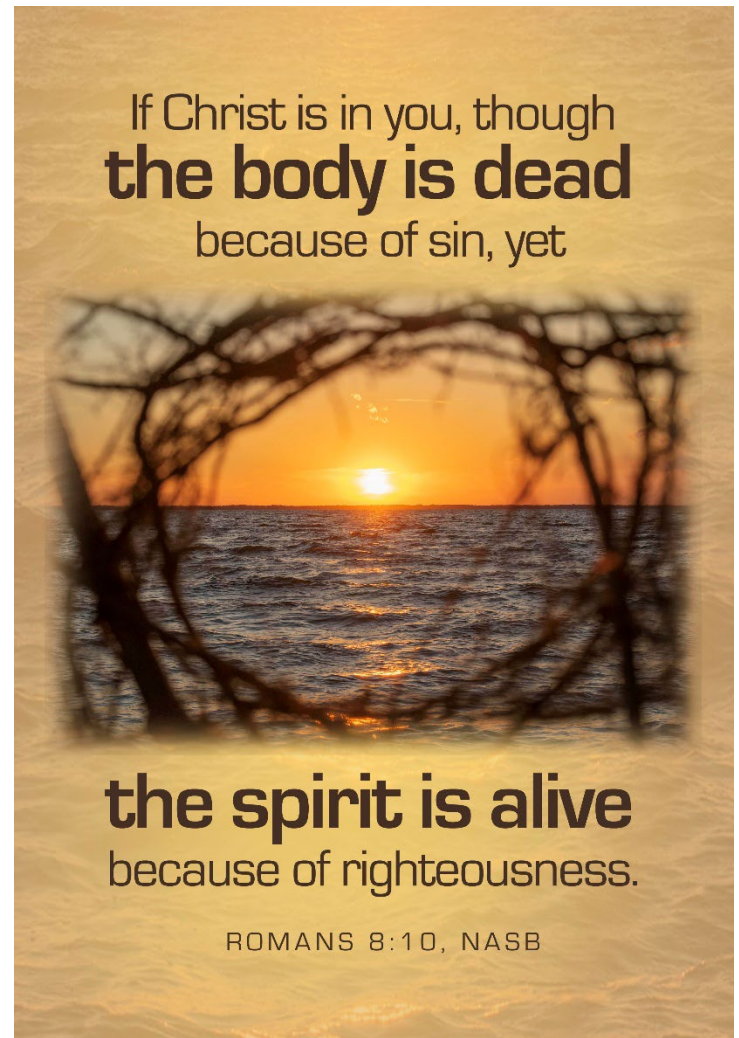
People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 8:1-11

(The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to you.)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 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, 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. 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. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.

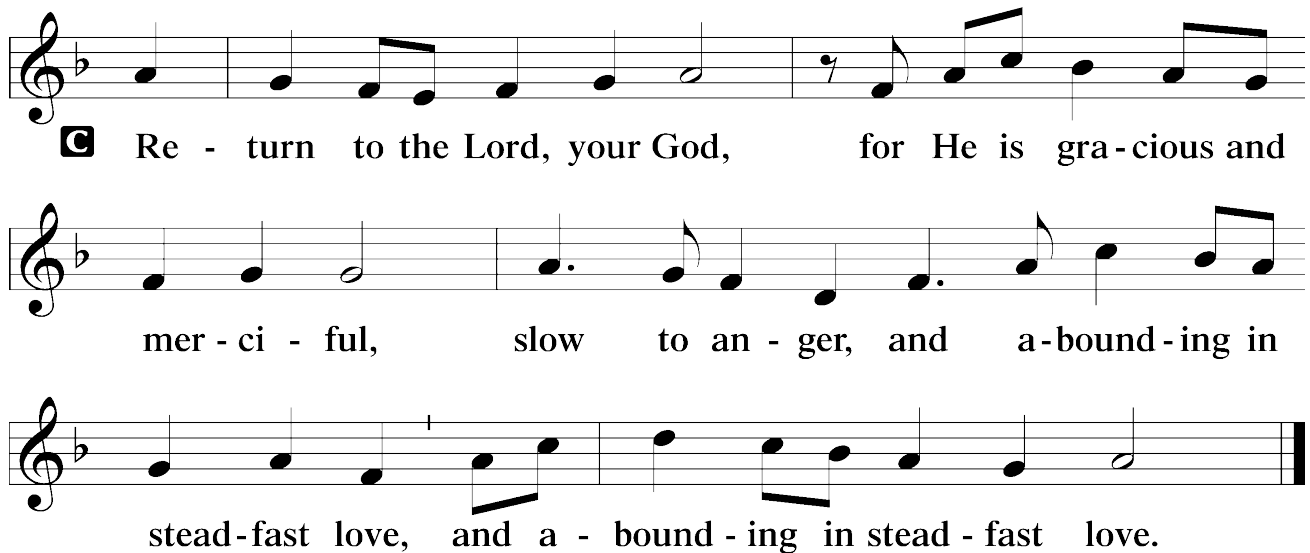


Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for Verse and the Holy Gospel.

Lenten Verse



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

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45

(Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us

go to him.” So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”



**“LAZARUS
COME OUT!”**

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 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.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 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.” When he had said these things, he cried out with a

loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day "O Christ, Who Shared our Mortal Life" LSB 552
(Listed as Verses 1, 9-10, 4 in the Hymnal)

(Verse 1 will be sung first by Mike as a solo in order to familiarize you with this brand new tune. Then we will REPEAT VERSE ONE together as a congregation.)



1 O Christ, who shared our mor - tal life And
 2 Two weep - ing sis - ters, worn by grief And
 3 "I am the Lord of life and death!" You
 4 Death's pow - er holds us still in thrall And



end - ed death's long reign, Who healed the sick and
 mired in depths of gloom, Stood watch - ing where their
 an - swered Mar - tha's cry, "And all who hear and
 bears us toward the tomb. Death's dark - 'ning cloud hangs



raised the dead And bore our grief and pain: We
 broth - er lay With - in a rock - sealed tomb. When,
 trust My Word Shall live, al - though they die!" You
 like a pall That threat - ens earth with doom. But



know our years on earth are few, That death is
 Lord, You met them as they mourned, You wept com -
 walked the path to Laz - 'rus' tomb, You called him
 You have bro - ken death's em - brace And torn a -



al - ways near. Come now to us, O
 pas - sion's tear; But Mar - tha, sore with
 forth by name, And liv - ing, lov - ing
 way its sting. Re - store to life our



Lord of Life; Bring hope that con - quers fear!
 sor - row, said, "He'd lived had You been here!"
 once a - gain, From death to life he came!
 mor - tal race! Raise us, O Ris - en King!

The Apostles’ Creed

(found in the back of the hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Because the Lord has inclined His ear to us, let us call upon the One who delivers us in our time of need.

Lord of life, You look upon the ways in which sin has withered our existence, and You speak Your words of life over us. Bless all pastors, that they may speak that same word with the faithfulness of Ezekiel, for the benefit of Your church and her mission,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Pastor: Loving Father, You claimed us as children in Holy Baptism, setting us free from the law of sin and death by sending Your own Son in the likeness of human flesh. Help us to forsake the ways of sinful flesh and to walk according to the Spirit who lives in us,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Pastor: Fearless Lord, even in the threat of death You pursue those You love. Give us courage to follow You into those places where death taunts and persecution lingers. Help us to fix our eyes on the One who is the founder and perfecter of our faith,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Pastor: Almighty God, precious in Your sight is the death of Your saints. Strengthen our leaders, our government, and all You have put in place to protect us, that they look upon every life entrusted to their protection with the same care,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, You deliver those who cry to You from the depths of distress and anguish. Visit the sick, the dying, and the grieving, [*especially . . .*]. Bring them Your peace, especially as they might question Your ways and Your timing. Comfort them with the hope of life everlasting, when Your Word will restore their bodies again,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

(other intercessions may be offered here)

Pastor: Receiving the fullness of Your Spirit and offering these prayers to You, O gracious Lord, we trust that You hear and answer us according to Your good and gracious will,

People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering (4:00 pm – collected in the back; 8:00 – collected in the pews)

Offering Music (8:00) “Go Down, Moses”

arr. Bill Ingram
Gloria Dei Ringers



✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 160

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came to us in the likeness of our mortal flesh and brought life and immortality to light that we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the resurrection feast that awaits all who believe in Him. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 161

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: **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.

Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 163

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Organ Music “What Wondrous Love is This?” arr. Benjamin Culli

Hymn “What Wondrous Love is This?” *LSB 543*

Hymn “Give Me Jesus (In the Morning When I Rise)” *WOV 777*
Blue Hymnal Supplement

General Communion Blessing

Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

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**

Closing Hymn “Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious” *LSB 548*

Congregational Concerns

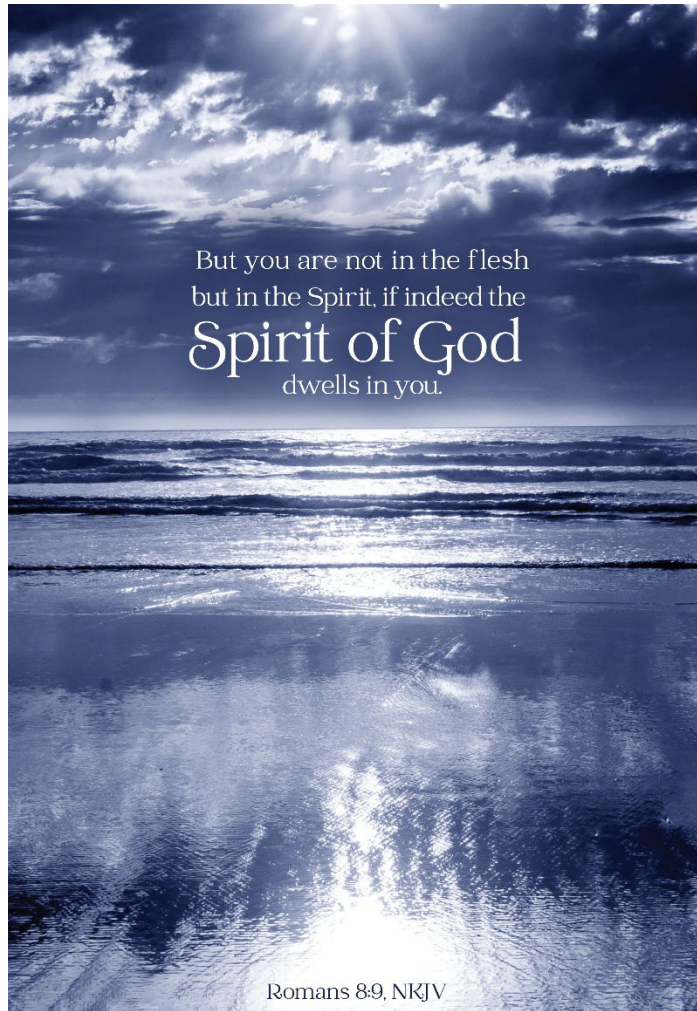
Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
 Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Jesus Lives! The Vict’ry’s Won” Benjamin Culli





But you are not in the flesh
but in the Spirit, if indeed the
Spirit of God
dwells in you.

Romans 8:9, NKJV

SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT

Rev. Kelly Crabbe

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

Michael Zehnder

HANDBELL DIRECTOR

Stephanie Roettjer

ELDERS

4:00 pm Jim Wert; 8:00 am Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz

ACOLYTE

8:00 am Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 am Abby Williams

LECTORS

4:00 pm Dick Castleman; 8:00 am Joyce Dowdy; 10:30 am Roland Scott

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 pm Dick Castleman; 10:30 am Roland Scott

ALTAR GUILD

Tanya Schmitt, Charmaine Rohde, Cathy Utecht

✘ ✘ ✘

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Extended Day Preschool

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