



Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Cleveland, MN

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the Holy Spirit so all may know God's love.



Epilogue

by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by John 8:2-11

14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

The Good News is... *rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness!*
(To view a larger, hi-res image, click [here](#) or on the photo.)

Call to Worship

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

Opening Hymn

“Lamb of God, Your Only Son”

Red #336

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod
and to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

2. Your gift of love we crucified.
We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

3. I was so lost, I should have died,
but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod
and to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*

Confession & Forgiveness

Jesus once said to a crowd, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.” Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time. None of us can get by without God's grace. In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth. We put down our stones and we turn to God for forgiveness. Join me in this act of transformation.

Let us pray:

Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our God is a God of mercy.

Our God is a God of compassion.

Our God is a God of grace.

We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world on our way.

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

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

Holy One, when you speak, we don't want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you wake with the dawn, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don't want to miss it. So today we pray, clear out the cobwebs in our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open up space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today. With hope we pray. Amen.

First Reading – Ephesians 5:8-14

Response: Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 130 *I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

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

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Gospel – John 8:2-11 *God's version of justice*

Before: The holy Gospel according to . . . **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After: The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Message

Pastor Liz Rossing

Hymn of the Day

“Christ, Be Our Light”

Red #715

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness, Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. ***Refrain***

3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. ***Refrain***

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. ***Refrain***

5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. ***Refrain***

Affirmation of faith

We believe in a table-setting God **who always has a seat saved for you.**

We believe in an inviting God **who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.**

We believe in a radically welcoming God **who eats with the overlooked and the outcast, the hungry and the downtrodden.**

We believe in the good news of the gospel, which reminds us **that all are welcomed, all are celebrated, all are loved, and all are claimed.**

Pull up a seat at God's table. **There is good news to be shared here. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

God of love, **hear our prayers.**

Offering & Giving Prayer

Gracious God, **giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives.**

Amen.

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.

Announcements

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: May God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless us now and always.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Praise to You, O God of Mercy”

Purple #119

1. Praise to you, O God of mercy!

Thanks be to you forever!

Raising high the weak and lowly:

thanks be to you forever!

2. From of old you loved and sought us!

Thanks be to you forever!

Truth and justice you have taught us:

thanks be to you forever!

Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

3. Praise to you, O God of mercy!
Thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**