

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

Unbound: Longing for Authenticity

PRELUDE

Dave Roos

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God and to one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

**We confess to you, most loving God,
the sins that both bind and scatter us.
We have knowingly believed dishonest words.
We have questioned your gracious power again and again.
We have given into temptation.**

**We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.
In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.
Gather us back to you.
Forgive us, free us, and make us whole
for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Friends, beloved of God,
Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.
In the name of + Christ your sins are forgiven.
May God unbind your guilt and shame, lead you by the Spirit,
and bring you to wholeness in abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #666

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

- 1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

- 2 When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

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

Let us pray. God of the living and of the dead, **we know that you always hear us: in our grief, our reproach, and our longing. Teach us to speak plainly to one another and to you. Free us from the fears that tell us to hide ourselves away, blocking out light and lift. Unbind us to walk whole-heartedly with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Word

BIBLE READING

Romans 8:6-11

PSALM *(read responsively)*

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths
I cry to you, O LORD;
- 2 O LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
- 3 If you were to keep watch over sins,
O LORD, who could stand?
- 4 Yet with you is forgiveness,
in order that you may be feared.
- 5 I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;
in your word is my hope.
- 6 My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.
- 8 For the LORD shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION TFF #98 "Open Our Eyes, Lord"

Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him

Open our ears, Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus

GOSPEL John 11:1-45

SERMON "Longing for Authenticity" Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY "You, O Christ, Are Resurrection" (tune of "Lord Whose Love in Humble Service")

1 - You, O Christ, are resurrection
In a world that's filled with pain.
You reach out when we are hurting
And you lift us up again.
Battered women, hungry children,
Lonely people, those in need
Find in you a hope that's living
As they're welcomed, loved and freed.

2 - You, O Christ, are resurrection
 When we're caught up in our sin,
 When we grieve the road we're traveling,
 When we see what might have been.
 You give healing and forgiveness
 In the place of sin and strife.
 Christ, we're drawn to what you give us —
 Resurrection and new life.

3 - You, O Christ, are resurrection
 When a loved one's memories fade,
 For you never will forget us —
 We're the ones you came to save.
 Lord, we trust that you will guide us
 When each day brings grief and stress;
 Living Christ, you walk beside us
 Through this shadowed wilderness.

4 - You, O Christ, are resurrection
 When an illness takes its toll,
 For the promise that you give us
 Is that one day we'll be whole.
 So we need not fear the future
 When the way seems hard to bear;
 You will gently guide and lead us
 To the place that you prepare.

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

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

Responses: Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

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

OFFERING & HYMN ELW #333 "Jesus Is a Rock In a Weary Land"

**Refrain: Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
 a weary land, a weary land;
 my Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
 a shelter in a time of storm.**

- 1 No one can do like Jesus,
not a mumbling word he said;
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave,
and he raised him from the dead. ***To Refrain***
- 2 When Jesus was on earth,
the flesh was very weak;
he took a towel and girded himself
and he washed his disciples' feet. ***To Refrain***
- 3 Yonder comes my Savior,
him whom I love so well;
he has the palm of victory
and the keys of death and hell. ***To Refrain***

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, **maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life,
open your senses to the mystery of God's grace,
enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ's love,
and give you confidence in the Spirit's power to unbind and grant new life.
May the Holy Trinity, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #758 "You Are the Way"

- 1 You are the way; to you alone
from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find
and by your grace set free.
- 2 You are the truth; your word alone
true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind
and purify the heart.
- 3 You are the life; the rending tomb
proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
and those who put their trust in you
not death nor hell shall harm.
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life;
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, forgiven, whole and free. **Thanks be to God.**