



***Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026
9:00 am***

***St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
San Mateo, CA
www.standrews.org (650) 345-1625***

"We welcome all people as children of God and invite them to participate fully in the life and ministry at St. Andrew's regardless of age, race, gender, education, ethnic origin, marital or family status, cultural heritage, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic reality or diversity of ability. We resolve to be a church with open hearts, open minds, open doors and seeking to be reconciled to God and one another." St. Andrew's has a statement of welcome for the LGBTQ+ community.

St. Andrew's sits on the traditional land of the Ohlone, Ramaytush and Muwekma tribes.

Prelude

Welcome

Pastor John Kuehner

Call to Worship

Unity Choir and/or Mission Bells

Gathering Hymn –

Restore in Us, O God

ELW 328

Confession and Forgiveness

Where have we struggled? Where have we been less than perfect?

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Pause for reflection and thought.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: you call us to life in community,
but we often defer to our own interests at the expense of others. We
sometimes bend truth where honesty is needed. We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen

P: The former things have passed away, and God now declares a newness. Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the love and acceptance found with Christ, and forgives our shortfalls in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. .

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, Christ 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 all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, 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."

¹ 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. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I 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."

⁷ So 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. ⁸ I 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. ⁹ Then 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." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and

they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then 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.’ ¹² Therefore 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. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I 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.”

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Call and Response Reading: 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.**

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.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For 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, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But 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. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If 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.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel

The holy gospel according to St. John

John 9:1-41

Glory to you, O Lord

, ¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But 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.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. did believed in him.

was a Sabbath day when

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But 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.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

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

Sermon

You may be seated

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

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. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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). God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, especially those in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Northeast Africa. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 those we now name aloud or in the peace of our hearts.

Pause

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: May the Peace of the God be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share that peace with one another.

Please stand as you are able

Offering Song Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God

Offering Prayer

Let us pray . . .

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

From earliest days, you turned toward your creation, bringing light from dimness,
firm ground from the deep, life from the dust.

You ordained for everything a season, a time to break down, and a time to build up, a time to keep, and a time to put aside. Let this now be a time of healing, a time of justice, a time of reconciliation and peace.

And so for this, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join this unending hymn:

Holy, Holy

Words of Institution

Communion Dialogue

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may be healing and redemption for us and for your world, the turning toward a new day of righteousness.

That all creation turn toward you, seeking your mercy and trusting in your word, that we may share in your glory with all the saints in light. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

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

All are welcomed to come forward for communion as directed by the usher.

May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. . .

God of our salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of Christ,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus, our Savior. **Amen**

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

You Are the Way

ELW 758

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**