

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, March 22, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 121*

All: I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?

One: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

***OPENING HYMN** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” GtG 366

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
 Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 fix in us thy humble dwelling;
 all thy faithful mercies crown.
 Jesus, thou art all compassion;
 pure, unbounded love thou art;
 visit us with thy salvation;
 enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
 into every troubled breast;
 let us all in thee inherit;
 let us find the promised rest.
 Take away the love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be;
 end of faith, as its beginning,
 set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver;
 let us all thy life receive;
 suddenly return, and never,
 nevermore thy temples leave.
 Thee we would be always blessing,
 serve thee as thy hosts above,
 pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
 glory in thy perfect love.

(continued...)

4. **Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
Music: Roland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.
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PRELUDE TO PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We wonder if we can live again. We wonder if we have strayed too far, or if it is too late. We find ourselves asking if God can restore us, rebuild us, and breathe new life into us. Let us come into God's presence, seeking God's power to bring life out of death. Let us pray:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Breathe of God, our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, and we are cut off. We cannot find our way back to life in all its fullness and abundance. We do not know if we can live again. We have done things that drain us of life. We have not done things which give life. We grieve over all we have lost and all that is gone. Forgive us our sins and speak life to us. We come before you in silence reflecting on all we have done to bring death, asking you to speak life.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. You are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of Christ dwells in you. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel,

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*HYMN: “To God Be the Glory” GtG 634

1. **To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

Refrain

**Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!**

**O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!**

2. **Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

Refrain

Words: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875;

Music (To God Be the Glory with refrain): William Howard Doane, 1875

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THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS:	Old Testament	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	<i>[NRSV]</i>
	Epistle	Romans 8: 6-11	<i>[NRSV]</i>
GOSPEL:		John 11: 1-45	<i>[NRSV]</i>

SERMON “Speaking Life” *by Reverend Emily Rosencrans*

*HYMN: “O Christ, the Healer” GtG 793

1. **O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored
when reached by love that never ends? *(continued ...)***

2. From every ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.
3. How strong, O Lord, are our desires,
how weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths
unconscious pride resists or shelves.
4. In conflicts that destroy our health
we recognize the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills.
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
5. Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1967, alt. © 1969 Hope Publishing Company. *Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 & #20702248.*

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725. *Public Domain.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles Creed”** *(Traditional)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

(continued ...)

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: We lift all these concerns to you, for you alone have the power to give
life in all its fullness and abundance.

All: **Lord, hear our prayers. In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

**Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed by 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory
Forever.
Amen**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Prayer of Dedication*

One: Giver of every good and perfect gift,
we thank you for all you have given us, especially
the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
You have given us power to become
children of God, and so we are. Receive our
offerings and use everything to your glory. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMM “Speak Life” TobyMac**

- 1. Some days life feels perfect
Other days, it just ain't workin'
The good, the bad, the right, the wrong
And everything in between**

**Though it's crazy, amazing
We can turn our heart through the words we say
Mountains crumble with every syllable
Hope can live or die**

Refrain

**So speak life, speak life
To the dearest darkest night
Speak life, speak life
When the sun won't shine and you don't know why
Look into the eyes of the broken hearted
Watch them come alive as soon as you speak hope
You speak love, you speak
You speak life, oh oh oh oh oh
You speak life, oh oh oh oh oh**

- 2. Some days the tongue gets twisted
Other day my thoughts just fall apart
I do, I don't, I will, I won't
It's like I'm drowning in the deep**

**Well, it's crazy to imagine
Words from my lips as the arms of compassion
Mountains crumble with every syllable
Hope can live or die**

Refrain

- 3. Lift your head a little higher
Spread the love like fire
Hope will fall like rain
When you speak life with the words you say**

**Raise your thoughts a little higher
Use your words to inspire
Joy will fall like rain when you speak life with the things you say**

(continued...)

**Lift your head a little higher
Spread the love like fire
Hope will fall like rain
When you speak life with the words you say**

Refrain

**So speak life, speak life
To the deadest darkest night
Speak life, speak life
When the sun won't shine and you don't know why
Look into the eyes of the broken hearted
Watch them come alive as soon as you speak hope
You speak love, you speak
You speak life, oh oh oh oh oh
You speak life, oh oh oh oh oh**

**You speak life, oh oh oh oh oh
You speak life, oh oh oh oh oh**

Some days life feels perfect

*Source: Lyrics Find; Songwriters: Jamie Moore, Ryan Stevenson, Toby McKeehan;
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***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**All: God has promised: "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."**

**One: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you. May God lift up his countenance upon you and
give you peace. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

***Standing if able.**