

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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713-686-8254

Rev. Jim Berggren

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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## WORSHIP SERVICE

### PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: *Amen.*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

C: *We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.*

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of V Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: *Amen.*

### PASTORAL GREETING

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also, with you.**

P: Let us pray, together.

C: **Almighty God, your Son 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 in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**March 22, 2026 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

### **The Valley of Dry Bones**

**37** The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

<sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup>This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath<sup>[a]</sup> enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup>I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup>I will put my Spirit in you and

you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.”

*The word of the Lord.*

*Congregation response following the reading is: **Thanks be to God!***

**THE PSALM          Psalm 130**

**SECOND READING:   Romans 8:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life<sup>[a]</sup> because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of<sup>[b]</sup> his Spirit who lives in you.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Congregation response following the reading is: **Thanks be to God!***

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

ELW Pg. 142

*Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:   John 11:1-45**

**The Death of Lazarus**

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

<sup>4</sup>When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup>and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

<sup>8</sup>“But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

<sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

### **Jesus Comforts the sisters of Lazarus**

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead**

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

### **The Plot to Kill Jesus**

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Congregational response: Praise to you, O Christ.*

**PR. JIM’S SERMON: <https://youtu.be/ncickqPfnU4>**

**LENT, 5A, 3-22-26, JOHN 11**

**LAZARUS, LOOK AT THE VIEW**

Network news mistakenly announced that Patrick MacNee, star of *The Avengers*, had died. Patrick Magee, who had famously played the Marquis de Sade, in a Samuel Beckett play was the real deceased actor, in 1982. Patrick MacNee, who played the secret agent on *The Avengers*, said that newpeople looking for a follow-up story, started calling his daughter in Palm Springs, to offer condolences and say that they were sorry her father had died.

She told them, “That’s impossible. I just got off the phone with him in Australia, ten minutes ago.”

They said, “No, he’s really dead. It’s just the time difference.”

Rumor has it that just outside of Chicago there is a cemetery near the highway. With billboards there along the roadway. One of them reads, “Stand up and be counted for the 2020 census.” You might guess, a graffiti artist tagged the sign, with the words, “We Voted.” I also heard about one fellow who called out from work with the excuse, “I have to have an autopsy today, but with any luck I’ll be in tomorrow.” But enough of inappropriate gallows humor.

After four days entombed, it was more than a matter of only luck for Lazarus. When Jesus gives the instruction to move away the stone blocking the entrance to the tomb, Martha points out the obvious. “Lord, by this time, there is going to be an awful stink.” Thank you, Captain Obvious. That is a normal byproduct of death in a time and at a place where there are no funeral homes with sophisticated embalming techniques. 4 days have passed. It would be a concern, a detail that emphasizes the unrelieved hopelessness of the situation. Martha’s is an ironic understatement.

*Mary Tyler Moore*, once had an episode about the funeral of Chuckles the Clown. He had dressed as Mr. Peanut, for the circus parade. Upon seeing such a large peanut, the elephant ecstatically rushed forward and accidentally stepped on the clown. As this story was told at the funeral, the clown’s co-workers started to giggle, finally helplessly laughing. Healthy grief sometimes involves laughter, and in this episode, it seemed an appropriate tribute to a clown. Still, there is little from a human point of view that includes comedy as a regular feature of death and loss.

Nevertheless, Eugene O’Neill wrote a play entitled, *Lazarus Laughed*, featuring a newly alive Lazarus being interrogated by authorities and simply laughing in response. Witnesses ask him, “What is Beyond?”

Lazarus laughs and says, “Only life. I heard the heart of Jesus laughing in my heart. My heart, reborn to the love of life cried, ‘Yes,’ and I laughed in the laughter of God. There is only God. We are His laughter. Laugh, laugh, laugh! Death is dead!”

This whole episode in John 11, is another one of John’s great and amazing recognition scenes. Here is Jesus. He is incarnate: God is with us! He illustrates and mediates God’s glory. He is the Resurrection and the Life. His actions are living evidence. Martha’s recognition is complete. “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world.” But still her brother’s dead.

This is more than just a story about a family in crisis. The whole known world was in crisis, wracked with sin, confusion, danger, disease, and death. Not much has changed. But Jesus has given us a new way to see and understand. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life: A tower of meaning in chaos, a beacon of kindness in the midst of cruelty, and the light of the world in the dark night of its soul. The Truth. It is all in what you decide to notice.

Anne Quindlen, Pulitzer Prize novelist and journalist, was the guest speaker at a graduation program at Villanova. She told about a story she did on the homeless people who lived on the boardwalk at Coney Island. She sat upwind of a raggedy man on the edge of the boardwalk, because he smelled fairly ripe. Their feet dangling over the side. He told her of how hungry he got when the summer crowds left. Plenty to eat in the summer because tourists throw away

perfectly good food. Sometimes you find a hotdog with only one bite taken out of it. But in the winter, you have to fight for the good dumpsters to find your food. When it got below freezing, he knew how to break into the basement of a church to sleep. On warmer days, he had a nest of cardboard and newspaper under the Tilt-A-Whirl. He panhandled on the boardwalk and drank whatever he could and watched the tides come and go.

She asked him, “Why don’t you go to a shelter, or check into a detox, or irritate a policeman so you’ll get put in jail for a few days of warmth and food and a bed?”

The gentleman stared out at the ocean and he said, “Look at the view, young lady, look at the view!”

We get to stand outside the tomb with Mary and Martha, and Jesus and some bystanders, and look at the view. And Jesus says, “Take away the stone.”

That doesn’t sound like the best idea. He shouts into the dark hole, “Lazarus, COME OUT!!” It is a sharp command. Unbelievably, bound and wrapped up in swaddling graveclothes, Lazarus shuffles out. Witnesses are so stunned that Jesus has to give some obvious follow-up instructions. “Unwrap him! Set him free!”

Out there in our world.... The people, they are alive!!! They might not know that! But Jesus has made sure of that. But we are here to unwrap them and set them free. They are gifts of God, to us. We are the baptized, called and commissioned Ushers of the Resurrection!

It is a startling miracle---more so than healing---healing is incredible and amazing, but still sort of like fixing that which is broken. This Resurrection stuff is better than improving a condition. It is better than perfecting a performance. It is better than enlightening the uninformed. This is a whole new level of Grace. Raising from death to life? From absolutely nothing to absolutely everything. This is exactly what we have to do, to be... to accept God’s love and his Grace. We have to do and to be just like Lazarus did and was, absolutely nothing! It is Jesus, the Creator’s free gift.

Jesus broke up every funeral he ever attended, or even occasionally met on the roadside. Our Lord and Savior is ruining the comfortable predictability of death.

It is inconceivable, a complete mystery. Martha, a great theologian, is willing to concede in her conversation with Jesus before all of this wild and heady new stuff, that yes, there is a resurrection, later, for sure. That is what the great teachers, the esteemed Pharisees teach. Resurrection, later. Jesus’ rejoinder to her is “NO, TODAY, NOW!”

We focus on fear; global pandemics, and impossible-to-prove prognostications of ruin and death. Every week we are presented with a new entertaining episode in the soap opera that tantalizes us with titillating terror.

People who are paying attention are laughing. While we all pay for the channels that scare us the most....

Watch out. “We are going to be in World War 3, shortly!!!” “Oh Yeah, you are just figuring that out?” We’ve been in World War 3 since the late 1800’s. It has been waged through many international conflicts with the ‘weapons *du jour*’. World War 3 is not a war of weapons. It is a war on Truth.

In 1949, George Orwell, published a book, entitled *1984*. It was not prophetic. It was simply descriptive of a world losing the truth. His main character, “Winston” worked in the national Ministry of Truth. This department’s slogans were, “War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength.” Winston’s job in the Ministry of Truth is to rewrite history on a daily basis.

At the same time, Aleksander Solzhenitsyn is writing of his crushing experiences in *The Gulag Archipelago*, an extensive prison industry stretching from Finland, across Russia, to the Bering Sea, which exterminated millions. Book 1, covers 1918 to 1956. Chapter Two is entitled, ‘The History of Our Sewage Disposal System.’ The ‘sewage’ is the lives of those who were flushed down history’s drain, imprisoned and killed for crimes against “the Truth”, of the day.

The biggest pandemic is the fear and the anxiety that we experience as we anticipate our fears and anxieties. At the devil’s crossroads of confusion, someone is always capitalizing on the crisis: Offering alternate relative truths that are not ‘The Way, The Truth, and the Life.’” Jesus has lifted us up from the graveyard of sin and death, out of our baptism and into His Resurrection.

Maybe we will allow ourselves to be bound up and entombed. “Oh, my goodness,” we fearfully fret, “we are victims in the middle of a terrifying death experience!!”

Or, ponder this: Jesus laughs and says, “NO. TODAY. NOW. BE UNBOUND! You are in the middle of a redeemed life experience. Look at the view! Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies**

**ELW 553**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

P: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C: 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**THE LORD’S PEACE** (Please share the Peace with a neighbor)

**THE OFFERING**

**“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**  
arr. Jack Schrader

John Allcorn / Soloist

**THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW Hymn 142

## **THE OFFERING PRAYER**

**All pray together:**

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.

## **AGNUS DEI**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have, mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

## **THE 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.

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in Eternal Life.

**POST COMMUNION SONG**

*Now, Lord*

ELW 201

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Presider:**

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 your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

**You Are the Way**

**ELW 758**

**GO IN PEACE, IN SERVICE**

***C: Thanks be to God!***

**PSALM 19:14**

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*



- ♣ **Ken Beamesderfer**
- ♣ **Jim Berggren**
- ♣ **Pat Boessling**
- ♣ **Jim Fritze**
- ♣ **Paul Houghton**
- ♣ **Joyce Huey**
- ♣ **Bruce Jaster**
- ♣ **Charlotte Jaster**
- ♣ **Lane Kelly**
- ♣ **Bryan Kile**
- ♣ **Nancy Lancaster**
- ♣ **David Magrill**
- ♣ **Jeremy Mitchell**
- ♣ **Geraine Moore**
- ♣ **Ed Peterman**
- ♣ **Dorothy Preuss**
- ♣ **Lupe Romero**
- ♣ **Wayne Schaper**
- ♣ **Steve Schulze**
- ♣ **Scott Spates**
- ♣ **Marilyn Thigpen**
- ♣ **Jaime Urbanski**
- ♣ **Bennie Valites**
- ♣ **Susan Wiles**
- ♣ **Michael Williams**
- ♣ **Lin Worsham**

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## **COUNCIL MEETING**

Council meeting will be Sunday, **April 19**,  
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

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## USHERS

**Month:** March

**Team #** 05

**Leader:** Barbara Neumann

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## LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

### MARCH

- 1 Reader — Alice Braun  
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer
- 8 Reader — Jay Fort  
P/E — Julie Kilkenny
- 15 Reader — Ike Thompson  
P/E — Sharon Wagner
- 22 Reader — Linda Cuzzort  
P/E — Penny Schick
- 28 Reader — Mallory Hileman  
P/E — Alma Byerly

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

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### **ATTENTION HOLY CROSS MEMBERS**

Following the Church Safety Protocol, if you would like to make a reservation to use the church facilities for church or private events, please contact Sussy.

You must to fill out a Calendar Request Form or send an email.

Thank you!

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# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PART II

Holy Cross Congregational meeting will be Sunday, **March 22**, 2026.

Church Council

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## **LENTEN SCHEDULE IN 2026**

**LENTEN SERVICES** will be held on Wednesdays

at 12:00 noon in the Atrium the following dates:

**FEBRUARY 25, MARCH 4, 11, 18 & 25,**

*followed by a light meal after the services.*

## **LENTEN MEALS**

This is the schedule for the Lenten Meals:

- 2/25 Council
- 3/04 Choir
- 3/11 Ruth Circle
- 3/18 Fellowship Club
- 3/25 Men's Breakfast Group

## **LENTEN STUDY**

for Wednesday Noon Services

This year we will explore the Lenten study “**Killing Jesus**”

by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard.

Pastor Jim Berggren

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## **EASTER LILIES - LAST DAY!**

This is the last Sunday to place an order for an Easter Lily.

The Order Forms may be found in the Atrium and in the Narthex.

Just complete the form on the envelope and place in the basket.

Lilies are \$10.<sup>00</sup> each and may be picked up after the 9:30 Easter Service.

Thank you! Sharon Wagner

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## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

We'd love to continue the HCLC Easter Egg Hunt Tradition, (scheduled for

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**, at 3:30 p.m. after the Springfest)

but **we need volunteers, including a Coordinator!**

Can you help?

Contact Wendy Lambeth for details ([wklambeth@comcast.net](mailto:wklambeth@comcast.net))

Julie Kilkenny

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## **PRAYER VIGIL**

This Lenten Season we would like to take time to reflect on the gifts we have received and the sacrifices that have been made in Christ's name.

On **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a Prayer Vigil to do just that.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Atrium; we would like to have people sign up for a given time slot between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can come to church and pray in the

Chapel or you can commit to pray in your own home.

Hopefully we can have continuous prayers throughout the day!

Wendy Lambeth

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## WOMEN'S MORNING STUDY GROUP

Ladies, join us for a new monthly study starting **Saturday, April 18!**

We will meet on the **3rd Saturday** of each month from **9:00 am to 10:00 am** in the **Annex**. Our first series will focus on the *Women of the Bible* examining the lives of biblical women to discover spiritual lessons, focusing on their faith, struggles, and roles in God's story.

Come enjoy coffee and a bite during our time of fellowship and growth as we dive into God's Word together. We hope to see you there! Invite a friend.

This is open to all women.

Contact Alma Byerly 713-870-1297 with questions.

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*Kindly reminder:*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

We are looking for volunteers to support our Sunday School and Nursery!

To give our weekly teachers the opportunity to attend services,  
we are building a rotation.

Whether you can help **once a month or even once a quarter**, we need you.

The role is simple: supervise 2–4 children, bring them in for Bible Time, and lead a small activity. It's a low-pressure way to serve our church family.

Please reach out to Wendy Lambeth or Julie Richter if you can help!

Julie Richter

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*Join us in the Celebration of*

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES IN 2026**

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>March 29</b>	9:30 a.m. —WC
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> and Stripping of the Altar	<b>April 2</b>	6:00 p.m. —FLC
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 3</b>	7:00 p.m. —WC
<b>Saturday Informal Service</b> · Prayer Vigil	<b>April 4</b>	6:00 p.m. —AT 9:00—6 p.m.
<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>April 5</b>	
· Easter Sunrise service		7:00 a.m. —WC
· Easter Breakfast		8:00 a.m. —FLC
· Pre-service Organ Concert		9:00 a.m. —WC
· Easter Traditional Worship		9:30 a.m. — WC

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## SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

**9:30 a.m.** *Traditional Worship service with Rev. Jim Berggren —WC*  
*followed by **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PART II***  
*Sunday School / Nursery is available for small children during the service*  
*— Crib Room*

**10:30 a.m.** *Coffee fellowship following the service —FLC*

### THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

23 Mon	24 Tues	25 Wed	26 Thurs	27 Fri	28 Sat
<p><b><u>CROSSTIES DEADLINE</u></b></p> <p><i>11—12 pm</i>  <i>ELC Chapel</i>  <i>—WC</i></p>	<p><i>11—12 pm</i>  <i>ELC Chapel</i>  <i>—WC</i></p>	<p><i>10—12 noon ELC</i>  <i>KiM —FLC</i></p> <p><i>10 am Roundtable</i>  <i>Group —VR</i></p> <p><i>11 am Choir practice</i>  <i>—CL</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12 noon</b>  <b><u>LENTEN SERVICE</u></b>  <i>Followed by a light</i>  <i>meal prepared by the</i>  <i>Men's Breakfast Group</i></p>	<p><i>10—12 noon</i>  <i>ELC KiM —FLC</i></p> <p><i>8 pm AA Women</i>  <i>mtg. —FLCA</i></p>	<p><i>7—9 pm Bayou</i>  <i>City Band —FLC</i></p>	<p><i>8 am—4 pm</i>  <i>Upcycled Crafty</i>  <i>Ladies Springfest</i>  <i>Market —church</i>  <i>outdoors -FLC/</i>  <i>FLCA/MR/YR</i></p> <p><i>6 pm Saturday</i>  <i>Informal service</i>  <i>—AT</i></p>

AT =Atrium, CL=Choir Loft, CR=Choir Room, FLC= Family Life Center, FLCA=Annex,  
 KiM= Kids in Motion, MR=Media Room, WC=Worship Center, YR=Youth Room  
 BLS=Basic Life Support, SST=Safeguards Safety Training, UCL=Upcycled Crafty Ladies