

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" - arr. Arnold Sherman
Memorial Handbells

Welcome

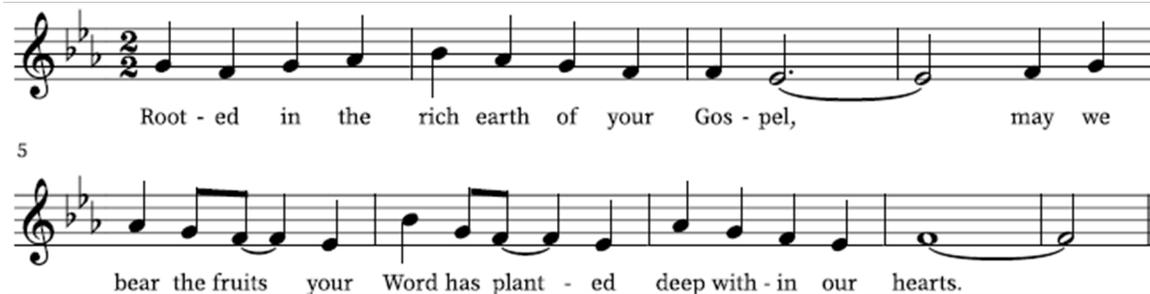
Gathering Song: "Beneath the Tree of Life - Gathering Song" -
Marty Haugen

Refrain

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 2/2 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are: "[Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life. [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life; Root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re - lease. [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life." The score includes various musical notations such as quarter notes, half notes, and rests, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are placed below the staff, with some words in brackets to indicate optional or repeated phrases. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*[Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of
life. [Come and gath - er] be -
neath the tree of life; Root of
wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re -
lease. [Come and gath - er] be -
neath the tree of life.

Verse 5



Root - ed in the rich earth of your Gos - pel, may we
5
bear the fruits your Word has plant - ed deep with - in our hearts.

Refrain



*[Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of
life. [Come and gath - er] be -
neath the tree of life; Root of
wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re -
lease. [Come and gath - er] be -
neath the tree of life.



Penitential Rite

All
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
Lord, have mer - cy, mer-cy on us all.
Leader: May almighty...everlasting life.
All
A - men.

Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

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, "Prophesy 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."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - from "Now the Feast and Celebration" - Marty Haugen

Congregation:

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and

mer-cy; Come, seek the ten - der faith-ful-ness of God. *Repeat*

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

The Gospel according to John
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.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews 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 Jews 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 Jews 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 Jews 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 Jews 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 Jews, 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

Pastor Rachel Mithelman

Hymn of the Day: "Spirit, Open My Heart" - ACS #1043

Listen for this same hymn tune, Wild Mountain Thyme, during today's offering anthem by the handbell choir

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
 Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953
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 Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Music Voluntary: *“Wild Mountain Thyme”* - arr. Sandra Eithun
Memorial Handbells with Gretchen Theesfield, violin

Offering Prayer

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 Meal

This is Christ's table and Christ's meal. All are welcome here. Kids are welcome to commune at the discretion of their parents. If you are unable to come forward please let an usher or the pastor know so that we can bring you Communion at your seat.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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



“Holy, Holy, Holy” - “Beneath the Tree of Life” - Marty Haugen

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san-na, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Words of Institution

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.**

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Hymns during Communion

*"Adagio" from "Sonata in G Minor"- H Eccles
Gretchen Theesfield, violin*

"What Wondrous Love is This" - ELW #666

Prayer after Communion

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.
Amen.

Announcements

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

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Grave" from "Voluntary VIII" - G.F. Handel
Lois Theesfield, organ

Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org or emily@mlcnevada.org, or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

Please keep Shelley Ludeman and family in your prayers following the death of her sister, Rhonda Thompson

Please keep Kenzie and Fred Alderson and family in your prayers following the death of Fred's mother Beverly Alderson.

June Rush <i>sister of Joan Ridgway</i>	Wayne Kinyon	<i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>
Nan Jungst	Loren Bryant <i>brother of Arlys Neal</i>	Wayne Johnson
Paul Johnson	Jill Rhodes	Troy Vincent
Bill Couser	Connie Robinson <i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>	Johann Thiel
Mary Brinkman	Barb McDaniel	Mike Neal
Ashley and Ming Xu <i>friends of Aly Sassman</i>	Ken Huffaker <i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>	Christina King
Julia Zaffarano	Emma Nelson <i>granddaughter of Steve & Nan Jungst</i>	Sherry Kluever
Joan Stensland	Ardith Forsyth	Kim Elliott
Kathy Lynn Johnson	Eileen Miller	Pr. Marcia Kisner
Teresa Krebs	Karen Anderson	Marlene Waddell <i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i>
Kari Toot	Caleb Roof	Cassie Harrell
Tanya Sorem	Evelyn Onstot	Jean Smith
Julie & Craig Sutherland	Katy Beno <i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>	Easton Farrington
June Copenhaver <i>mother of Diane Martin</i>	Eric Forsyth	Janice Hartz
Pastor Andrea Myers <i>wife of Pastor Ronald Myers</i>	Crystal Vines	Jackie Byers <i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
Charlie Lloyd	Katie Bass	Donna See
Bert Ann Ray		Norma Danna <i>friend of Betty Runge</i>

Hospitalizations: *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*

Announcements

TODAY: Let's go bowling! - Sunday, March 22, 2 - 4 pm

All are invited to an afternoon of bowling today at Sports Bowl. Cost will be \$6 per person and includes two games plus shoes. No sign-up needed, come join us! Please note that children 12 and under will need to be accompanied by an adult. We'll see you at Sports Bowl!

Chili & Soup Cook-off - Wednesday, March 25, 6 pm

Our annual Chili & Soup Cook-off is March 25 and we are looking for entries, sides, and general help in the kitchen. Please sign up in the narthex or contact the church office if you would like to contribute and be in the running for this year's favorite chili or soup! Donations at the event will go to ELCA World Hunger. Our mid-week Lenten worship service will follow at 7 PM.

Donation Statements Update

In an effort to reduce costs associated with mailing giving statements, we'll be moving to mailing statements twice a year (January and July) rather than quarterly. However, if you would like a copy of your individual statement at any point in the year, we would be happy to mail it or email it to you. Thank you!

Easter Lily Dedications Due March 31

Dedicate an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one and help decorate the church for Easter! Please fill out a form in the narthex or contact the church office. A suggested donation is \$8 per lily (payments may be brought to the church office or dropped in the secure box outside Emily's office). Thank you!

Holy Communion Workshop - Wednesday, April 1, 6:30-7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

When we gather at the Lord's Table we give thanks that it is Christ's table and that Christ's invitation extends to all. At Memorial Lutheran children are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the discretion of their parents. This is an opportunity for young kids to come and learn more about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This class is geared towards students in 2nd grade with a parent present alongside them. Some children may have not yet begun receiving Holy Communion while some have. All are welcome to come and attend this class. The following evening there will be a special time of blessing and recognition during the Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd at 7 pm for those who participated in the class the night before. Please contact Pastor Kathleen at pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org with any questions or to RSVP.

Walk to the Cross - Friday, April 3

Come with us as we walk to symbolize Jesus' walk and carry our cross on Good Friday, April 3. We will start at Central Presbyterian Church (932 5th St) at 12:00 noon and walk to St. Patrick Catholic Church (1110 11th St.) There will be a short service at St. Patrick's about 12:20. If you are unable to walk, please just meet us at St. Patrick's. In case of inclement weather, the walk will be cancelled, and the service will begin at 12:00 at St. Patrick's.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Update

Greetings on behalf of the Thrivent Choice Committee. Just a friendly reminder about designating your Thrivent dollars to Memorial as March 31 is the deadline. Recent Thrivent Choice projects include being able to provide **\$2,640** to assist Memorial youth in attending Lutheran Lakeside Camp, as well as providing **\$2,500** toward the final payoff of our "A Welcoming Space..." heating and cooling project loan. Thank you for your support!



Prayer Shawl & Quilt Invitation

As we prepare for the 2026 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, congregations across the synod are invited to help surround this gathering in prayer, comfort, and peace blessings. The theme, "Peace be with You," will be embodied through the gift of handmade prayer shawls and lap quilts; creations that offer color, warmth, and care from the hands and hearts of people across our synod. Can you knit, crochet, or sew? Would you be willing to donate a prayer shawl, a lap quilt, or a quilt? Please let us know in the office!

Feeding Haiti's Kids - Friday, April 17, 6-8 pm

We are trying to organize volunteers to pack meals for Feeding Haiti's Kids at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames (1416 20th Street). We have 11 slots for volunteers. All volunteers must be 8 years and older and anyone under 12 must have an adult with them. Please contact Pastor Kathleen to sign up.

Stay Connected with Memorial

Keep up-to-date with Memorial and community events, prayer requests, volunteer opportunities, and more; sign up to receive emails and/or periodic texts at bit.ly/memorialconnect or by using the QR code.



Online Giving with Tithe.ly

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/give> or by scanning the QR code. ***Did you know? In Tithe.ly, you can set up one-time or recurring gifts to the General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Drive for the Drive Pavement Project, Sanctuary Screens Fund, Sanctuary Carpet Fund, and more!***



This Week at Memorial

Monday, March 23 - Sunday, March 29

23 Monday Church Office Closed 6:00 PM Stewardship Team Meeting	24 Tuesday 6:00 PM* Handbells Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	25 Wednesday 6:00 PM Chili & Soup Cook-off followed by Lenten worship - WNL will meet from 6:30 - 7:00 in the Chapel	26 Thursday 7:00 PM Council Meeting
27 Friday Have an idea for our monthly newsletter? Perhaps a focus on a ministry or group you're involved with at Memorial or in the community? We would love to hear from you! Please contact emily@mlcnevada.org or call the church office.	28 Saturday	29 Sunday 9:00 AM Worship in-person and online  PALM SUNDAY	

Office Hours
 Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM*
**Call 515-382-6509 for appointments outside of office hours*

Memorial Lutheran Church
 701 11th Street, Nevada, IA 50201
 Phone 515-382-6509
pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org
emily@mlcnevada.org
www.mlcnevada.org

@memluthnevada  Memorial Lutheran Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry
 Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement
 Mike Coverdale, Custodian

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