

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

**PRELUDE**    *O God Who Gives Us Life*    FORD

**CONFESSION**

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

*Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.*  
Silence is kept for reflection.

*Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:*

*Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:*

*Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:*

*Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. Amen.*

**HYMN**    666    *What Wondrous Love Is This*    WONDROUS LOVE

## GREETING

*The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all. And also with you.*

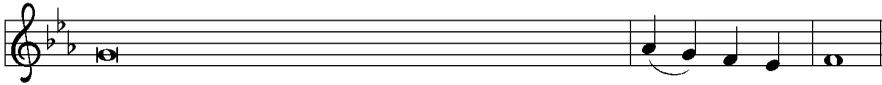
## KYRIE ELEISON [Lord, have mercy]



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



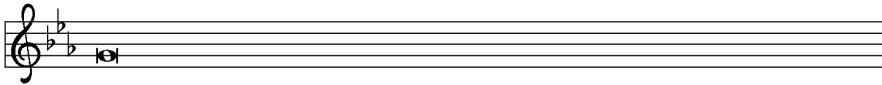
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



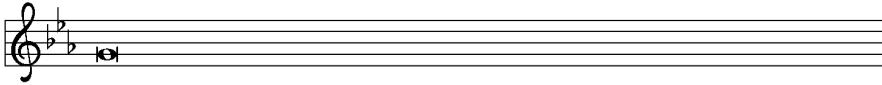
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray together. 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

*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."*

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

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>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.' <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>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.*

PSALM 130 (we sing responsively, verse by verse)



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

SENIOR CHOIR (10:45)      *The Son of God in Tears*      WILLIAMS/MARTIN

**SECOND READING: Romans 8: 6-11**

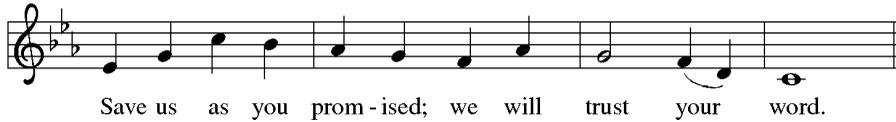
*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>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.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## HOLY GOSPEL

*The Holy Gospel according to John.*      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 11: 1-45

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

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

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> 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." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met

him. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So 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?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>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.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>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.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>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.”

<sup>45</sup>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 Tucker O’Leary, n/OLF*

**HYMN OF DAY #334** *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* THOMAS  
(stanzas 1,2,3 and Lent 5)

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

*With voices united, let us confess our faith*

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS

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

*...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*

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

**YOUTH: LENTEN READING**

*Things of God*

THORN

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING** *Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed* KIM

**OFFERTORY #801** *Change My Heart, O God* CHANGE MY HEART

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



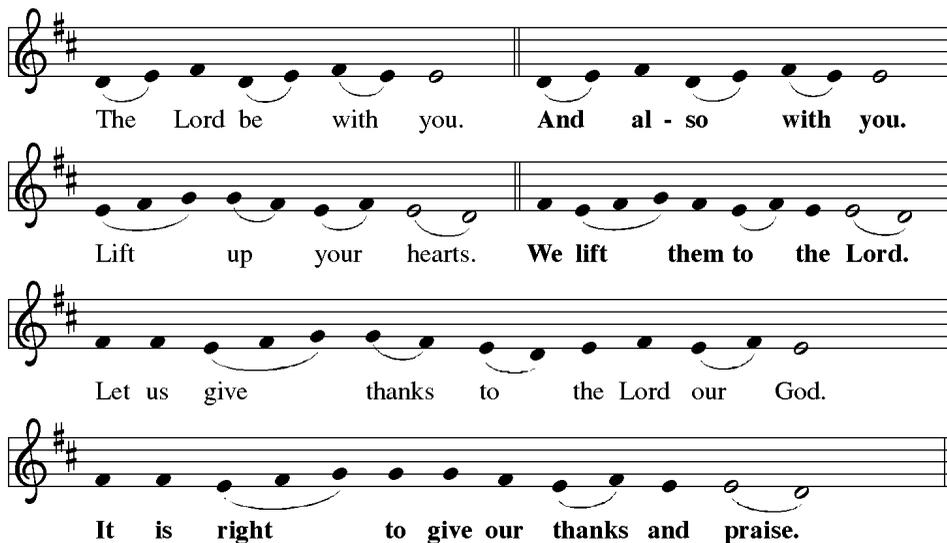
You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

*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.*

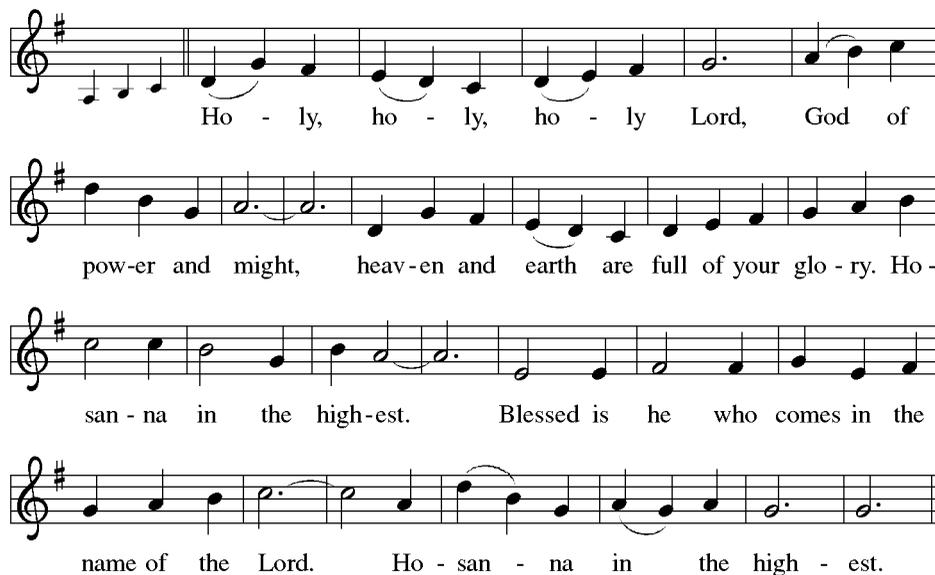
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## SANCTUS [Holy, Holy, Holy]



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 in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.*

## 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

## AGNUS DEI [Lamb of God]



*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his 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 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.*

#### **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** ACS 1086 (pg 11) *O God, Who Gives Us Life* NOEL

#### **DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
Thanks be to God.*

**POSTLUDE** *Glory Be to Jesus* HOBBY

# O God, Who Gives Us Life



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,  
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you,  
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.





*O God, Who Gives Us Life*

**Welcome to First Lutheran Church.**

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

**WE ASK EVERYONE** to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given to the glory of God by Daryl & Cyndy Rotman in honor of their 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Happy Anniversary!!

**THE 2026 FLOWER CHART** is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

**BLOODMOBILE** Great News! The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be here at First on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 12-5pm. Please be willing to donate your precious blood or ask a family member, friend, co-worker to be a donor. There is a shortage and the need is ongoing. Sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and do the Rapid Pass for faster service. Walk-ins are welcome also.

A sign-up sheet for cookie or brownies is on the bulletin board across from the office. Thank you!

**OPEN POSITION:** The position of Building Manager is available. Duties include opening and closing the church building, and the keep up and maintenance of the building. If interested, please contact Pastor Tucker or Marilynn Dunn.

**ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** are now available for the 2026-27 school year on the church website under Forms/Youth Forms or the office. All applications and letters of recommendation are due in the church office by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Two scholarships are available, the Endowment General Scholarship and the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship. Details are available in the February newsletter and when the forms are downloaded. Any questions, contact Cyndy Rotman at 419-348-0064.

**HELP IS NEEDED** during February and March to help with Riehm Farm vegetable delivery. Every 2 wks. Riehm Farm uses the parking lot for their customers and they bring donation boxes for First Lutheran to use. A volunteer arrives at the parking lot anytime between 4-5:15pm and identify as a volunteer to pick up the donation. These vegetables can then be used by the volunteer, family, friends or taken to City Mission using the Front St. entrance, CHOPIN Hall Wed. from 12-1pm. Or any other agency that uses fresh food. Please call Carolyn Bryant, 419-422-0015 if questions. Thank you so much.

**DON'T FORGET THE COMMUNITY DINNER!** APRIL'S Community Dinner RISES UP on Easter Sunday!! Please consider donating fresh fruit, fruit cups, or muffins! We will be serving "breakfast for lunch," so we won't need regular desserts or salads. I know this is a family time, but consider helping with prep, cleanup, OR JUST COME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND BRUNCH for those who don't have families!! Thanks!

*Financial Update*

Through February  
 Total Receipts \$58,746  
 Total Expenses \$60,104  
 Expense over Income (\$1,358)

*We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world*

**HOLY WEEK SERVICE TIMES**

**Maundy Thursday (April 2):**  
 3pm - Tradition Service - St. John's Lutheran  
 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay  
 7pm - Service with Hand washing, reenactment of the Last Supper - First Lutheran  
 109 E Lincoln, Findlay

**Good Friday (April 3):**  
 12pm & 7pm Trinity Lutheran, 935 W Bigelow, Findlay  
 5:30 pm - (Stations of the Cross)  
 St. John's Lutheran, 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay  
 7pm - First Lutheran Church 109 E Lincoln, Findlay  
 Tenebrae Service

**Holy Saturday (April 4):**  
 11am Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Lunch  
 St. John's Lutheran Church, 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay

First Lutheran Church 109 E Lincoln, Findlay 8:15am and 10:45am	<b>Your Findlay/Arcadia Area ELCA Lutheran Churches Sunday Worship Times</b>	St. John's Lutheran Church 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay 9:30am
Trinity Lutheran Church 935 W Bigelow Ave, Findlay 9am	Trinity Lutheran Church 18974 State Rte 12, Arcadia 9:30am	