



# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

March 22, 2026

## As We Gather

Today's message, *When It Feels Too Late*, speaks to moments of grief, loss, and waiting when hope seems expired. Through Habakkuk's struggle with delay and the raising of Lazarus, we hear the promise that Christ is never too late. Even where death, sin, and despair appear final, God speaks life and forgiveness.

## ✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

### Hymn

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (LSB 438) *sts. 1, 3–4*

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Confession and Absolution

*Psalm 130:1–4*

- P** Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!  
**C** O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- P** If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

*Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** Most merciful God, we cry to You from the depths of our sin. We were born into those depths and need Your Word to call us out of them. We have sinned against You with our thoughts,

**our words, our actions, and our inactions. We have lived according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. From the depths, we wait for You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, deliver our soul from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. 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** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. You are precious in His sight because Christ is in you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## WORD

### Introit

*Psalm 116:1–4, 8; antiphon: v. 15*

**P** Precious in the sight of the LORD

**C** is the death of His saints.

**P** I love the LORD, because He has heard

**C** my voice and my pleas for mercy.

**P** Because He inclined His ear to me,

**C** therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

**P** The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

**C** I suffered distress and anguish.

**P** Then I called on the name of the LORD:

**C** “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

**P** For You have delivered my soul from death,

**C** my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** Precious in the sight of the LORD  
**C** is the death of His saints.

## Kyrie

*LSB 186*

- C** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

## Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, who rules over and preserves us to life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Ezekiel 37:1–14*

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon 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.”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them.

But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Romans 8:1, 5–8, 11*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

*John 11:1–7, 14–16, 32–40, 41–45*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Hymn

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (LSB 439) *st. 10*

## Sermon Series: Hope in the Dark

Sermon Title: When It Feels Too Late

*Habakkuk 2:1-4*

## Catechism

*The Third Article*

**C** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** ... Lord in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

## Offering/Offertory

LSB 192

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

## Confirmation

*The pastor addresses the catechumens.*

**P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord’s bidding. Jesus said, “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

**P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

**R** *Yes, I do.*

**P** Do you renounce the devil?

**R** *Yes, I renounce him.*

**P** Do you renounce all his works?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you renounce all his ways?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**R** *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

**R** *Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**R** *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

**P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

**R** *I do.*

**P** Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

**R** *I do.*

**P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

*The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing.*

**P** *[Name]*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

**R** *Amen.*

*The pastor may read a text of Holy Scripture as a remembrance of confirmation.*

*Stand*

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to their Savior.

Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood.

By the Lord's Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear the cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Peace ☩ be with you.

**C** Amen.



## ✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

*We follow the liturgy on Pages 194-202 in the hymnal.*

**Preface**

*LSB 194*

**Proper Preface**

**Sanctus**

*LSB 195*

**Lord's Prayer**

**The Words of Our Lord**

**Pax Domini**

**Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

## Distribution Hymns

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (LSB 707)  
My Song Is Love Unknown (LSB 430)  
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (LSB 686)  
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (LSB 633)

*Sit*

## Lord's Supper Dismissal

- P** Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are ✠ forgiven you.
- C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis

*LSB 199*

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

### Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise (LSB 917) *sts. 1, 3–4*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.  
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