



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude “Bride Groom of Our Soul” by John Blackburn

Eric Dickey

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who first called us into being, whose relentless love went all the way to a cross, whose Spirit gathers us together into new life. **Amen**
Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence for reflection.*

Merciful God,

We confess that we have turned away from you and gone astray from the way of Jesus. We have resisted the pull of your Spirit, and we have ignored the needs of neighbors around us, whom you have called us to love. We have allowed greed, fear, indifference, and self-centeredness to lead us into dead ends, and we have let ourselves become entangled in sin. We need you to set us free, to take us by the hand, and to bring us to life again. Forgive us, O God, and make us new creations.

Beloved of God, you have been found by grace and claimed by Christ. In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven and you are no longer captive in the grip of death, for Christ has defeated its power in the cross. Through the Spirit that has been poured into your hearts, you have been brought into God’s family and are free to live anew.
Amen

Hymn

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”
VS 3 High Voices, VS 4 Lower Voices

ELW 886

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C** **And also with you.**

Lenten Theme Hymn

“You Gather Us, O Christ”



1. You gath-er us, O Christ, and— in your fam - i - ly, the
2. You gath-er us, O Christ, a— midst our grief and fears, and



lost are found, our wounds are bound, and cap—tives are set— free.
when these hearts have come a - part, you share with us our— tears.



You gath-er us, O Christ, here in this ver - y room, so—
You gath-er us, O Christ, in pain and loss and strife, like



all our days we will walk your ways, from cross to emp - ty tomb.
Laz - a - rus, you de - liv - er us, you call us back to— life.

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.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The 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, “Prophesy 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.”

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

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

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

L The Word of the Lord **C** **Thanks be to God!**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45

P 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord! C Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

“Jesus Draws the Dead (...And Raises Us)”

Pastor Stephen Bond

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

AM We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick; **Tom Jennings, Larry Battles, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Luke Holtz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Staci, Greg Urbanski, Matt Jurrus, Sally, Tom Druschel, Phyllis Sturgeon, Jeff Bucher, Albert Preston, David Reimer, Pastor Ray Gottschling, Jim Gebhart, Larry Hudson, Carol Borkowski, Morgan & unborn baby, Matt, BethaLynn Mbaya, Judy Kathleen, Cheryl Fischer, Mya Chapp, Betty Ray, David Ray, Paul Ayres...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

Our Tithes and Offering *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offering Prayer

AM 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 Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

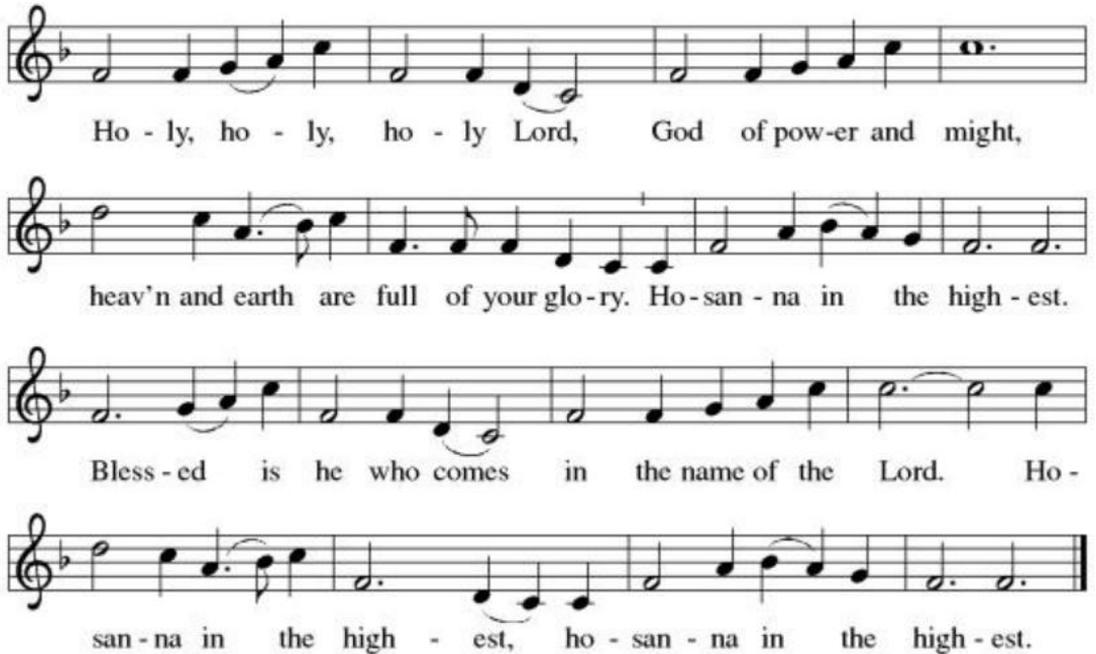
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C And also with you.

C We lift them to the Lord.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**Eucharistic Prayer Continues



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

The Words of Institution

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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **C** **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 Hymns

“Lamb of God”



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymn

“I Am the Bread of Life”
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand

ELW 485
ELW 773

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM 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.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P 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

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

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Postlude

“Making Jesus Known”

Welcome to Community of Christ! We welcome YOU to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at **8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.** in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you, and as always, BRING A FRIEND!!!!

Adult Forum Explores Luther’s Small Catechism, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Our Adult Forum is inviting EVERYBODY to catechism! We’re inviting all who would like to join us to explore the essentials of the faith as summarized in Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. We’ll explore the meaning in our lives of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, Holy Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and the Christian Life, using the insights of Luther’s own “handbook for the faith” called the Small Catechism. Whether you first learned these things long ago in a confirmation class or you have never had a chance to study the catechism, this is a great chance to explore some of the Big Ideas of the Christian faith and get at why it all matters, and what it all means. Join us between services starting this March in the Bible study/council room!

Thursday Bible Study Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m., we host a Bible study (in the Council/Bible study room) that is open to all! We’ll be doing a longer deep dive into the New Testament book of Acts to learn the story of the early church and how the band of rag-tag fishermen and tax collectors from Galilee grew into a movement that reached outward to the very heart of the Roman Empire and became a “found family” of Jewish and Gentile people, rich and poor, enslaved and free, women and men, and lived through the growing pains of that outreach to change the world. Remember, too, that we’ll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media each week, so that you can know what we’ll be looking at each week in case you miss a week or want to join in!

Dish Pickup Reminder 🗓️ If you have any dishes or serving items that you’ve used for meals at the church, please remember to pick them up by **March 31**. Any items remaining after that date will be donated to **Goodwill**. Thank you for helping us keep our kitchen organized and for sharing your generosity with others!

Recycling Update: As many of you know, aluminum cans have been collected and scrapped to help support our building loan. At this time, the church will **no longer** be accepting cans for recycling. If someone would like to take over this effort, please contact the church office. We appreciate your support!

LAST DAY to Order Easter Lilies!

Flowers may be dedicated to the *memory* of or in *honor* of loved ones. Please place your envelope in the offering plate **TODAY, Sunday, March 22**. The cost is \$25.00 for a two stemmed pot of beautiful lilies!

Thank you for helping make our Easter celebration beautiful!

The 2026 Ladies Lunch will kick off on **March 27th!** We'll meet at 11:30 a.m. at Sunset Bistro, 1220 W. Wooster St., Bowling Green, OH 43402. Please be sure to sign up at the kiosk to make reservations. Questions? Contact Becky King at 419-349-7319.

On Saturday, March 28, 2026, our very own Chad Ackerman and the Masterworks Chorale will be performing a concert here at Community of Christ at 4:00p.m. Tickets are required, \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. They are available at masterworkstoledo@gmail.com or at the door. Seats will be assigned at time of purchase like ordering for Stranahan events. MASTERWORKS CHORALE is a mixed voice ensemble comprised of singers from the Toledo area. It strives to skillfully and professionally perform a diverse variety of choral literature and provide its audiences and members with an enriching and fulfilling musical experience. Founded in the fall of 1972 by Benjamin Locke and his mother, Rose Mary Locke, the Chorale has premiered several compositions by local and world-renowned composers and sponsors annual high school internships and choral workshops. Masterworks Chorale is overseen by Tim Cloeter, a conductor and singer with more than twenty years of experience in higher education, teaching conducting, choral literature, diction, music theory, and aural skills, and leading choirs that have consistently been invited to perform at music conferences and concert series. Cloeter has led the Chorale since 2013, and he also serves as director of music at Perrysburg First United Methodist Church.

Toledo School for the Arts Vocal Music Concert and Silent Auction—April 26 at 3:00 p.m. The Concert Committee is excited to announce that later this spring, we'll be hosting a concert featuring some of Toledo's top jazz vocalists, including Ramona Collins, Kim Buehler, and Lori Lefevre, and vocal students from Toledo School for the Arts, coming up on April 26 at 3:00 p.m. We're also inviting the congregation to help us in putting on a silent auction of prizes and items, from which proceeds will be split between Community of Christ's ministries beyond our doors and TSA's "Songs for our Sister" Vocal Jazz Scholarship Fund to help other students develop their talent. The concert will be free with the invitation to give to a free-will offering, but we would LOVE your help with donating prizes for our silent auction. Would you be willing to make a basket of themed prizes? Do you have a business that could donate a prize, or do you make some sort of artistic and crafty creations? Coming this March, we'll have a sign-up for those who can contribute prizes (see the kiosk), and we'll have a fantastic afternoon of music, prizes, and more on April 26!

Social Action Collection for Genacross Youth Homes

This March and April, the Social Action Committee is inviting the whole congregation to join in a collection of items needed for the group youth homes for at-risk children and youth in our area that are managed by Genacross Lutheran Services in northwestern Ohio. We invite you to bring any of these items (new) to the display in the Gathering Space, whether on Sundays or throughout the week, so that we can pass them along to kids who can use them this spring:

- Markers, crayons, colored pencils (any sizes and amounts)
- Coloring books and activity books (especially faith-themed are welcome)
- Basketballs, footballs, frisbees

If you can bring any of these items in March or April, you can help make a difference in the lives of kids who could really use some signs of love and care at this time in their lives. Help us to show the love of Christ to these young people as we help the ministries of Genacross this March and April!



Altar Flowers given by Joanne & Simon Gottwald
In loving memory of Carl ❤️ 🛤️



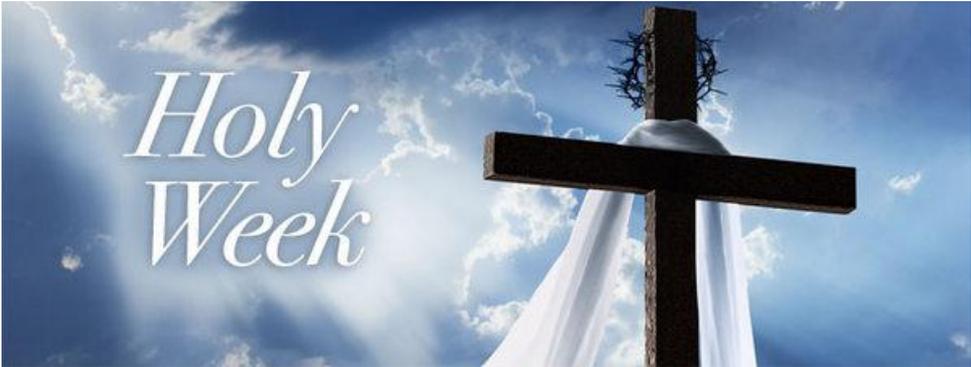
<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Last Day to Order Easter Lilies!!	Today, Sunday, March 22
Cookie Sunday!	Today, Sunday, March 22 after each service
Confirmation @ Zion	Today, Sunday, March 22, 12:30 p.m.
Youth Group @ CoC	Today, Sunday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study	Tuesday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.
Conversations and More	Tuesday, March 24, 1:00 p.m.
Soup Supper	Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 p.m.
Lenten Service	Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.
Choir	Wednesday, March 25, 7:45 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study	Thursday, March 26, 1:00 p.m.
Masterworks Chorale	Saturday, March 28, 4:00 p.m.

† **Lenten Services 7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, March 25

🍲 **Soup Suppers 6:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, March 25



Maundy Thursday
April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
April 3, 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil Service
April 4, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday
April 5, 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

****Church Office Closed****
Good Friday, and
Easter Monday



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take

notes from the message or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!