

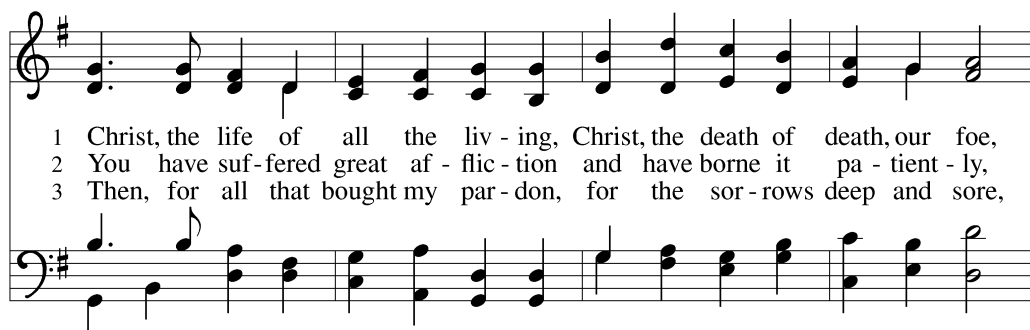
*The Raising of Lazarus* (1890)  
Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)  
Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent (A)**  
**Sunday, March 29, 2020 Podcast**

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O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig (Lamb of God, pure and sinless), BWV 656  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

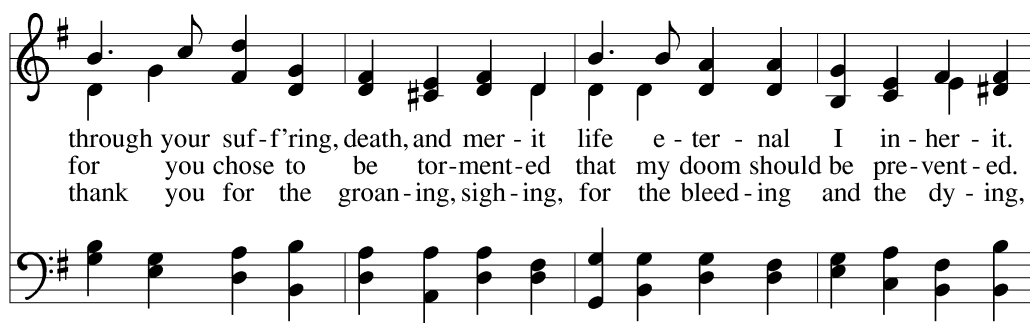
*A few weeks ago, for the first Sunday of Lent, I focused our organ music on the various interpretations of the Kyrie (Lord have Mercy). This weekend, I am focusing on a couple of different interpretations of the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), another movement of the Mass ordinary which is particularly appropriate during our Lenten time of prayer and self-reflection. O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig (Lamb of God, pure and sinless-#357 in our hymnal) was written by early Lutheran hymn writer Nikolaus Decius, and it was originally intended to replace the Agnus Dei. J. S. Bach wrote a number of settings using this tune, perhaps most famously in the opening movement of his St. Matthew's Passion. BWV 656, from the "Great Eighteen" chorale preludes, presents the tune in three verses, two of which are presented here for our prologue. The final verse will be our epilogue. The first two verses feature the chorale tune in the soprano voice, and then the alto voice respectively, surrounded by serene, moving counterpoint.*



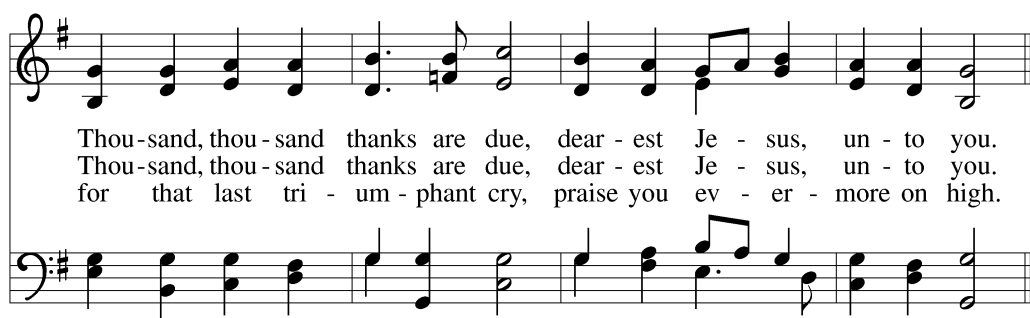
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,  
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

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**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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Let us pray.

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.**

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**WORD**

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

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*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."*

A reading from Ezekiel.

<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.”

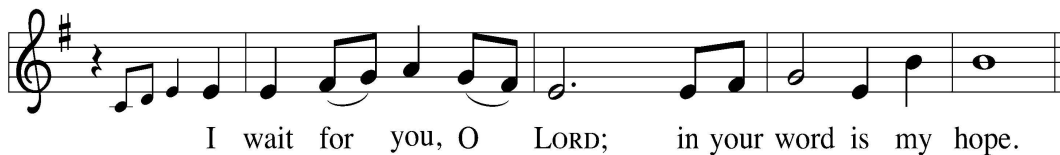
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALMODY: Psalm 130**

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*The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.*



<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. REFRAIN**

<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. REFRAIN**

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

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*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.*

A reading from Romans.

<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, though the body is dead because of sin, 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 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.**

## LENTEN ACCLAMATION

Setting Five S160b

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*The acclamation is sung by the assembly before and after the gospel verse.*



*Cantor:*

I am the resurrection | and the life;\*  
whoever believes in me will | never die. *(John 11:25-26)*

## **GOSPEL     John 11:1-45**

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*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.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

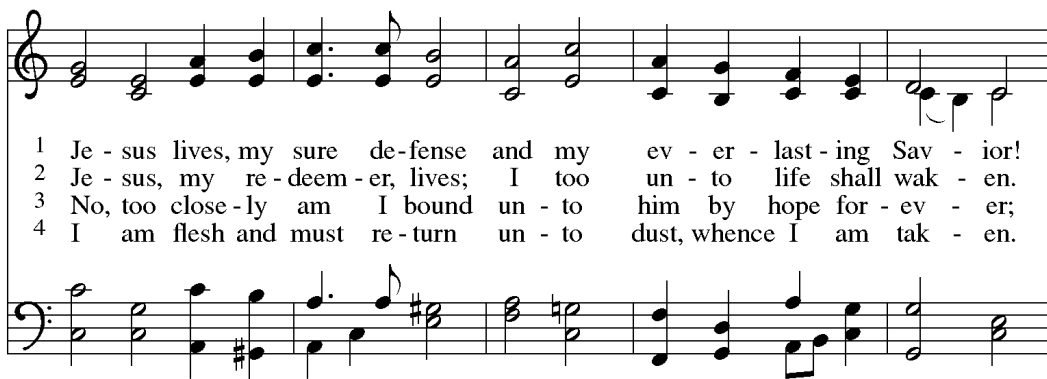
The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

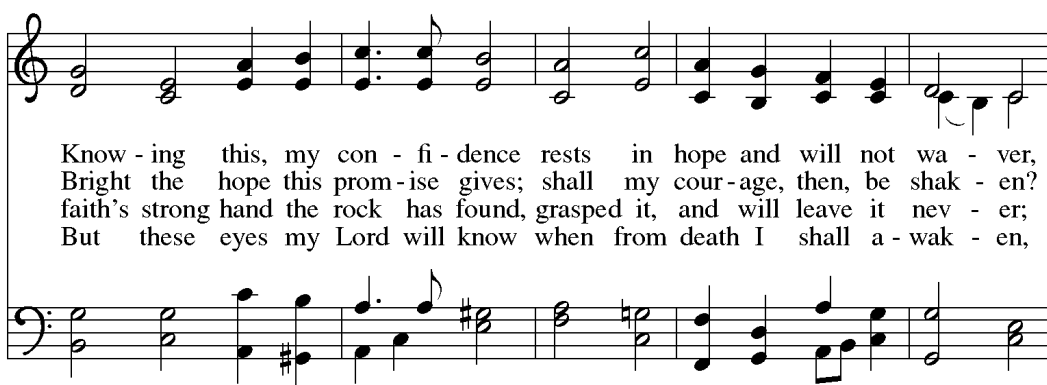
Pastor Steve Springer

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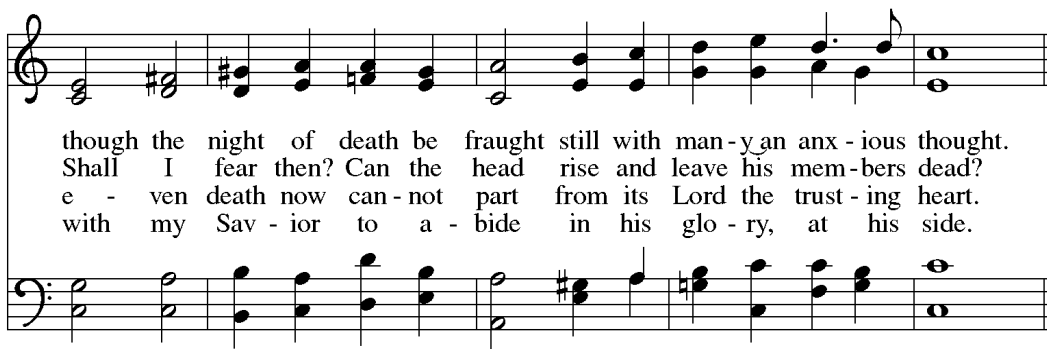




1 Je - sus lives, my sure de - fense and my ev - er - last - ing Sav - ior!  
 2 Je - sus, my re - deem - er, lives; I too un - to life shall wak - en.  
 3 No, too close - ly am I bound un - to him by hope for - ev - er;  
 4 I am flesh and must re - turn un - to dust, whence I am tak - en.



Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence rests in hope and will not wa - ver,  
 Bright the hope this prom - ise gives; shall my cour - age, then, be shak - en?  
 faith's strong hand the rock has found, grasped it, and will leave it nev - er;  
 But these eyes my Lord will know when from death I shall a - wak - en,



though the night of death be fraught still with man - y an anx - ious thought.  
 Shall I fear then? Can the head rise and leave his mem - bers dead?  
 e - ven death now can - not part from its Lord the trust - ing heart.  
 with my Sav - ior to a - bide in his glo - ry, at his side.

5 Then take comfort and rejoice  
 for his people Christ will cherish.  
 Fear not, you will hear his voice;  
 dying, you will never perish;  
 for the very grave is stirred  
 when the trumpet's blast is heard.

6 Here on earth, then, let your hearts  
 rise from longings vain and hollow.  
 Seek what Christ your Lord imparts  
 while you in his footsteps follow.  
 As you now still wait to rise,  
 set your hearts beyond the skies!

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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After each petition: “Lord in your mercy,” the assembly responds **“Hear our prayer.”**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

...trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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### **MUSIC**

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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*Agnus Dei, Frank Martin (1890-1974)*

*Frank Martin was a Swiss composer. His works represent a unique voice in music, combining classicism, impressionism, and 20th century techniques. His music is often inspired by his Christian spirituality. His Agnus Dei for organ is not composed on a pre-existing tune, but instead serves as a meditation on the text, as taken from the Latin Mass.*

### **BLESSING**

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The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

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Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig (Lamb of God, pure and sinless), BWV 656  
J. S. Bach

*The final verse of Bach's longest organ setting of O Lamm Gottes features the chorale tune in the pedal, over triplet figures in the manuals. The last minute of the piece is particularly striking. Bach writes a very chromatic section, which uses all 12 tones of the scale to create great tension and dissonance, leading many scholars to believe that Bach was symbolizing the Crucifixion of Christ in these measures. The piece ends with a free, toccata-like texture, symbolizing Christ's triumph over death, and life everlasting.*