

# A Service of Holy Communion for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. | March 30, 2025 | *Year C*



University Lutheran Church  
66 Winthrop Street, Cambridge, Mass.  
[unilu.org](http://unilu.org)

**PRELUDE** *UniLu Brass Ensemble*

“Lento” — César Franck, arr. Ken Young

“Non Vos Relinquam” — William Byrd, transcribed by Robert Casola

**GATHERING**

**BELL AND WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** ACS 1062 “Build a Longer Table”

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



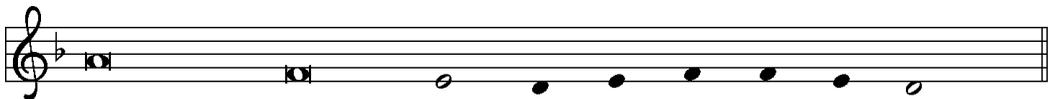
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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 ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING Joshua 5:9–12

A reading from Joshua.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain.

<sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Psalm 63:1–8

*The psalm is read responsively between the reader and assembly.*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you**

**In time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow,  
They shall not reach them.**

- <sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup>**“I will instruct you and teach you  
in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**
- <sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you.”
- <sup>10</sup>**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- <sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**SECOND READING** 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

A reading from Second Corinthians.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ to God, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God’s very self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is appealing through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So Jesus told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So the father divided his assets between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and

sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>The slave replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then the elder brother became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** *Carrie Ballenger*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 606 “Our Father, We Have Wandered”

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, 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.**

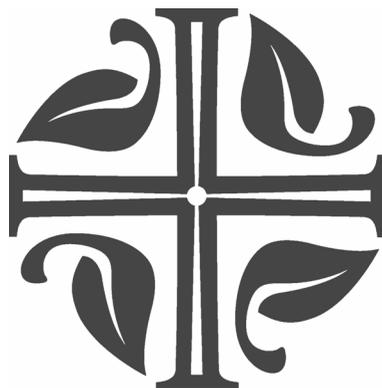
**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**Who descended to the dead  
and on the third day rose again.**

**Who ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**Who will come again 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.**



## INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

The following people have been elected by the congregation and by the Church Council to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these siblings will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation:

Mary Pederson Metelmann, *president*

Brian Tracey, *vice-president*

Ann Ferentz, *secretary*

Michael Neufeld, *executive committee member at large*

Edward Bucher, *treasurer*

David Hoglund, *assistant treasurer*

Chris Porter, *financial secretary*

Gail Bucher, *church councilor*

Andrew DiBiasio, *church councilor*

John Gregg, *church councilor*

Helen Schwickrath, *clerk of the congregation*

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

***Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.**

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

***Response:* We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as leaders of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Individuals will be invited to offer prayers aloud or write them in the book found at the entrance to the worship space. Prayers may also be typed in the Zoom chat box to be read by the intercessor.*

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*Each prayer petition may be concluded with one of these (or similar) responses:*

God, in your mercy,

Bless we the Holy One!

*or*

**Hear our prayer.**

**Thanks be to God!**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

## **MEAL**

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC** *UniLu Brass Ensemble*

“He That Shall Endure to the End” — Felix Mendelssohn, arr.  
Ken Young

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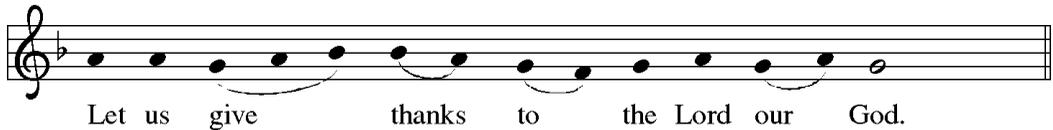
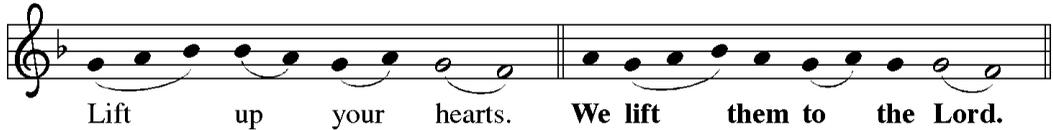
*Many people in our community already give online. Visit [unilu.org/giving/](https://unilu.org/giving/) if you would like to set up an electronic funds transfer, or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to: 66 WINTHROP ST, CAMBRIDGE MA 02138 (there may be a slight delay in processing donations received by mail).*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The thanksgiving may include this acclamation:*

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

*The thanksgiving may include this sung Amen:*

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as "Abba," Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.*

Friends, it gladdens the heart of Jesus when we pray:

**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION**

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*For those worshipping via Zoom, individuals may commune themselves and households may serve one another with the same words.*

## **HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**

ACS 964 "Here Would I Feast"

*(Aquí del pan partido tomaré)*

ELW 779 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

## **TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** ELW 763 “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *UniLu Brass Ensemble*

“Amazing Grace” — arr. Mark MacKinnon

### **SERVING TODAY**

*Presiding Minister and Preacher:* Carrie Ballenger

*Assisting Minister:* Chris Pollari

*Reader:* Mary Pederson Metelmann; *Intercessor:* Julia Kempton

*Musicians:* Imogene Stulken and the UniLu Brass Ensemble (David Newsome, *trumpet*; David Douglas, *trumpet*; Bob Berens, *horn*; Laura Meyer, *horn*; Brian Tracey, *trombone*; Laura Tracey, *tuba*)

*Hospitality:* Susan Worst and Laura Tracey

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE are asked for:**

Cheri Agaskar — UniLu member  
David Bailey — friend of Gail Bucher  
Ellen Bartlett — sister of Gail Bucher  
Margrit Betke — UniLu member  
Lorraine and Roland Blanchard — friends of Gail Bucher  
Ed Bucher — UniLu member  
Alice Conway — sister of Karin Kutrieb  
Solveig Ericson — UniLu member  
Bob Flannery — UniLu member  
Barbara Frank — mother-in-law of Anne Howarth  
George Gordon — UniLu member  
Nancy Gould — UniLu member  
Vera Ryen Gregg — UniLu member  
Charles Jaferian — grandson of Nancy Gould  
Jorge G. Miranda — friend of Ricardo A. Pulgar  
Karen Nichols — UniLu member  
Duncan McCoy Norton — son of Megan McCoy  
Anne Minton — colleague of Imogene Stulken  
The Ralston-Lamb family — UniLu members  
Jeanette Searson — sister of Imogene Stulken  
Judy Steele — sister of Phyllis Steele

For our siblings at Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge and their pastors,  
Robin Lütjohann and Raphaela Mueller.

For our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the  
Holy Land, including the staff of Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount  
of Olives and all those for whom they provide care.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we remember the peoples of the Czech  
Republic, Poland, and Slovakia.

For all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges,  
who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been  
separated from their families.

*(revised 3/25/2025)*

# *Lenten Devotions*



**Wednesdays: March 12, March 19,  
March 26, April 2, and April 9**

**7 p.m. on Zoom**

*email office@unilu.org for more info*

University Lutheran Church  
unilu.org

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

# Holy Week and Easter 2025 at UniLu

*April 13 – Palm Sunday*

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour (narthex) &  
Young Adults and Graduate Students  
Brunch with Partners for Sacred Places  
(Alumni/ae Room)

*April 17 – Maundy Thursday*

7:30 p.m. Worship (in community with Faith  
Lutheran Church)

*April 18 – Good Friday*

7 p.m. Prelude Music

7:30 p.m. Worship (in community with Faith  
Lutheran Church)

*April 19 – Easter Vigil*

9 p.m. Worship

*April 20 – Easter Day*

10 a.m. Prelude Music

10:30 a.m. Festival Worship with Brass

11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour

## **SERVING THE COMMUNITY**

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

Laurel Oberstadt-Petrik, *Ministry Intern*

Kristian Kohler, *Office Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director—Choir / Building Manager*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director—Organ*

Hanqi Zhang, *Tech Verger*

Mary Pederson Metelmann, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

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**Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston — and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).**

***Land Acknowledgment:*** *University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.*