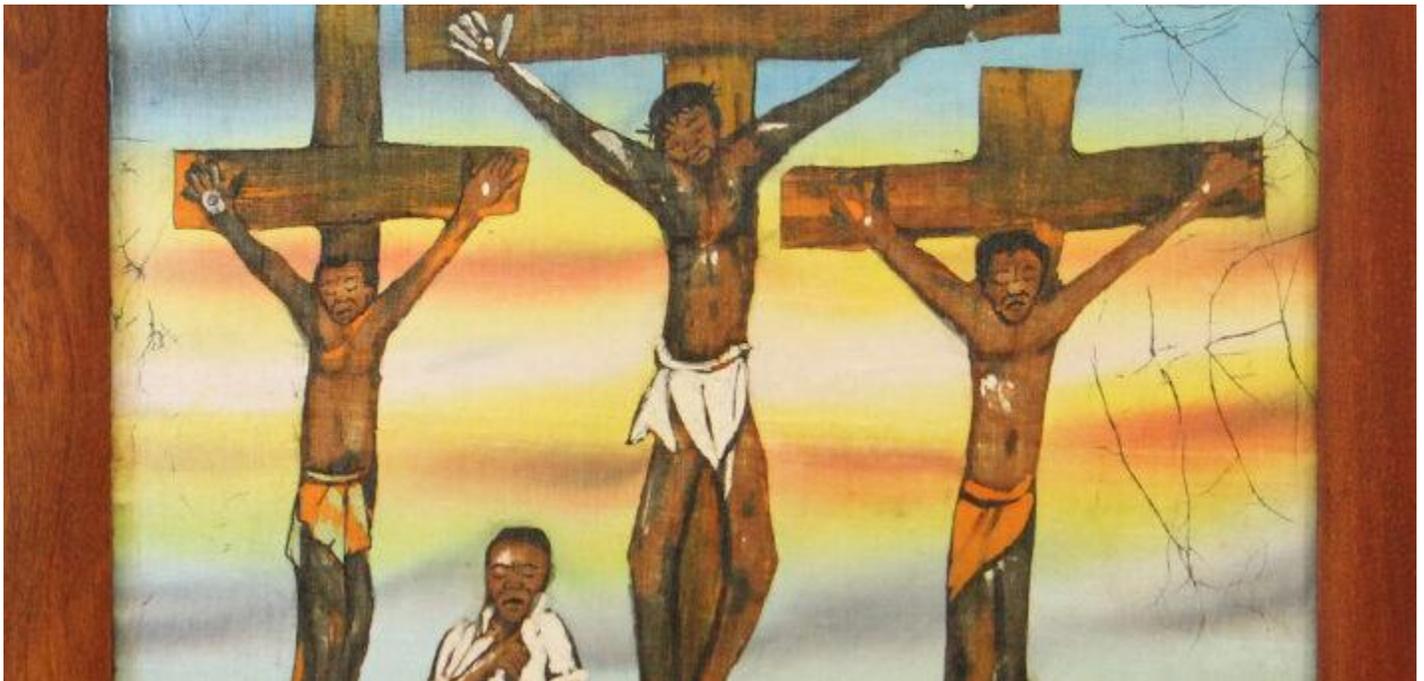


**Peace United Church of Christ  
March 22, 2026  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
10:30am**



*Crucifixion, Paulo Soleko*

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805  
[www.peaceucc.org](http://www.peaceucc.org)  
[office@peaceucc.org](mailto:office@peaceucc.org)

Prelude *Waltz in a minor, Op.34 No. 2, Frédéric Chopin, arr. Chad Lawson*

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

\*Call to Worship

We gather here before our God of the refining fire:

**Open our hearts to hear God's message.**

Guide our feet to walk the way Christ prepares.

**Open our eyes to see God among us.**

In towering pines, in delicate whirling shells, in the beauty of creation:

**Let us worship God!**

\*Song

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

see back page

\*Prayer of Confession

**O God, all that we face feels overwhelming. We need you to make us ready to stand with you, among neighbors, as Christ's body. Keep us steady to stand against the destruction for creation, the oppression of our neighbors, the diminishing of human dignity, and the demeaning of all you have called good. Open our eyes to see your new day. May we burn with your holy fire, rise on healing wings, and dance in green pastures, as the ash beneath our feet germinates new life. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

God's love is nearer than our very breath. **No matter who we are, where we've been, what we've done, or what we've left undone, God's loving hope is for us. Thanks be to God!**

\*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Age

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,***

***Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!***

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

Hebrew Bible Reading

Malachi 3:1-3a, 4:1-2a

Darlene Leafgren, reader

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Living God whom you seek will suddenly come to their temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, that one is coming, says the God of hosts. But who can endure the day of God's coming, and who can stand when God appears?

For God is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; God will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Holy One in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Living God, as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien and do not fear me, says the God of hosts.

Special Music

*For Emily and Byron, Jim Pospisil*

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*Ave verum corpus*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sophia Farell, violin

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,  
having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind,  
from whose pierced side water and blood flowed:  
Be for us a sweet foretaste in the trial of death!*

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

## Jesus, Remember Me 227

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the song 'Jesus, Remember Me'. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system includes the lyrics 'Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' The second system repeats the same lyrics. The music is in 3/4 time and features a simple, hymn-like melody.

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sung Amen

Offertory

*Soir for Violin, Cello, and Piano, Op. 76 No.1, Mélanie Bonis*

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Closing Song

*Somewhere to Begin*, T.R. Ritchie

**People say to me, "Oh, you gotta be crazy!  
How can you SING in times like these?  
Don't you read the news? Don't you know the  
score?  
How can you SING when so many others  
grieve?"  
People say to me, "What kind of fool believes  
That a SONG will make a difference in the  
end?"**

**By way of a reply, I say a fool such as I  
Who sees a SONG as somewhere to begin  
A SONG is somewhere to begin  
The search for something worth believing in  
If changes are to come there are things that  
must be done  
And a SONG is somewhere to begin  
Verse 2) DREAM...  
Verse 3) LOVE**

\*Benediction

*Anitra's Dance*, Edvard Grieg

Assisting in Today's Service:

Warren Post, Danny O'Neill, and Cindy Macaulay, Ushers  
 Koren Sjelin and Lyra Tennis-Luoma, Nursery Attendants  
 Justin & Jessica Olson and Cindy & Jim McLean, Coffee Hour Volunteers

## 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;  
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.