



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The narrative of the man who experienced self-destruction leads naturally to an encounter with death itself. In each event the presence of Jesus constitutes an affirmation of life and the defeat of death. Confronted with his word of power, the man of faith finds himself in the presence of the Lord of life.”

—WILLIAM LANE

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, grant that we, who justly deserve to be punished for our sinful deeds, may mercifully be relieved by the comfort of your grace; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

PSALM: Psalm 23

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Marta Bagratuni

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Bernard of Clairvaux · Tr. Paul Gerhardt · Arr. J.S. Bach

O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss 'til now was thine.
Yet though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered,
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor,
Vouchsafe me to thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest Friend,
For this thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever,
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 91

LEADER He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High

PEOPLE Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

LEADER I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,

PEOPLE My God, in whom I trust.”

LEADER For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler

PEOPLE And from the deadly pestilence.

LEADER He will cover you with his pinions,

PEOPLE And under his wings you will find refuge;

LEADER You will not fear the terror of the night,

PEOPLE Nor the arrow that flies by day,

LEADER Nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,

PEOPLE Nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

HYMN

Upon a Life I Have Not Lived

Horatius Bonar · Kevin Twit

Upon a life I have not lived,
Upon a death I did not die,
Another's life; Another's death,
I stake my whole eternity.

Not on the tears which I have shed,
Not on the sorrows I have known,
Another's tears; Another's griefs,
On these I rest, on these alone.

*Oh Jesus, Son of God,
I build on what thy cross has done for me;
There both my life and death I read,
My guilt, my pardon there I see.*

Lord, I believe; oh deal with me,
As one who has thy Word believed!
I take the Gift, Lord, look on me,
As one who has thy gift received. *Chorus*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, your face is hidden from us by our sins, and we forget your mercy in the blindness of our hearts. Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires. With lowliness and meekness may we draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

LEADER Hear and receive the good news of the gospel:
 in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LEADER The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL **And also with you.**

HYMN

O Praise the Name

Dean Usher · Marty Sampson · Benjamin Hastings

I cast my mind to Calvary,
Where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see his wounds, his hands, his feet.
My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears,
They laid him down in Joseph's tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone,
Messiah still and all alone.

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God!
O praise his Name forever more!
For endless days we will sing your praise,
O Lord, O Lord our God!*

Then on the third at break of dawn,
The Son of Heaven rose again.
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King! *Chorus*

He shall return in robes of white,
The blazing sun shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints,
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face. *Chorus*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;

And 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, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there he will come 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS - 10:00 A.M. SERVICE

Emma Bacon, Matthew Bacon, Annabelle Han Bao, Parker Billings, Christina Briscoe, Jane Coombs, Lydia Mascheroni, Sebastian Mascheroni, Karina Pereira-Lima McMillan, Laura Caroline Miles, Sharla Moody, Rafa Oliveira, Nicholas Rodriguez, Erika Sliwak, Alex Van Zijl

Membership Vows

- 1 Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in God's sight and without hope for your salvation except through his sovereign mercy?
- 2 Do you believe in the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
- 3 Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
- 4 Do you promise to serve Christ and His church by supporting this congregation in its worship of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?
- 5 Do you promise to accept the spiritual guidance of the church, to walk in a spirit of Christian love with this congregation, and to seek those things that make for unity, purity and peace?

Congregational Vow

Will you, the members of this congregation and witnesses of these vows, acting on behalf of yourself and as representatives of the whole body of Christ, do everything within your power to encourage these new members to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

All preschool and elementary age children are invited to the front of the church and will be dismissed to Children's Church with their teachers where they will read, sing, learn, and play in an environment suited to their language and style. Alternatively, children are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary to worship alongside the adults for the duration of the service.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - 11:30 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M. SERVICES

We regularly pray for needs in our congregation, our neighborhood and city, and the world. Please submit prayer requests to centralchurchnyc.org/prayerrequest.

OFFERING

*If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. For members and regular attenders of Central, give generously as you are able. We give because all we have has been graciously given to us by God. Our offerings express our joyful dependence upon God and our commitment to join God in his work of renewal. You can give online by texting **centralchurchnyc** to **833-737-6262** or visiting centralchurchnyc.org/give.*

OFFERTORY

I Know a Name

Jacob Sooter · Steven Furtick · Hank Bentley · Brandon Lake

I know a name that can silence the roaring waves.
I know a name that can empty out a grave.
I know a name, it's the only name that saves,
And it's worthy of all praise.

*I call you, Jesus.
I call you, I call you Healer,
Risen and reigning in power
Something comes out of the grave
Every time I call you, Jesus.
I call you, I call you Savior,
Worthy of glory forever.
Something comes out of the grave
Every time I call your name.*

I have a King with dominion over death.
He holds the keys in his holy nail-scarred hands.
He is the heel that has crushed the serpent's head.
Our resurrected great I Am. *Chorus*

Where, oh death, is now your sting?
And where, oh grave, your victory?

Dead things come alive,
Dead things come alive,
Dead things come alive in the name of Jesus. *Chorus*

THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth LM

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

The passage can be found on pages 840-841 of the pew Bible.

²¹And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea.

²²Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." ²⁴And he went with him.

³⁵While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

³⁷And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The

child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. ⁴³And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

SERMON

A Day in the Life of Jesus | The Day Jesus Raised the Dead

Rev. Jason Harris

THE THANKSGIVING

LEADER

Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE

We lift them up to the Lord.

LEADER

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE

**It is right to give him thanks and
praise.**

LEADER

It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this, your Table, O Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but solely in your great mercy. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table, but you are the same Lord who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore gracious Lord, that we who now receive these gifts of bread and wine, according to our Savior's Word, may share in the body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, that we may dwell in him forever and he in us. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus Christ, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I acknowledge that you are so holy and I am so sinful that you had to die for me. Yet you are so merciful and I am so loved that you were willing to die for me. I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what I have done and by what I have failed to do. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, I know that if I do not love you with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength, I shall love something else with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Grant that by loving you first I may be liberated from all lesser loves and loyalties and have you as my first love, my chief good, and my final joy. Amen.

Communion is served with wine and gluten-free bread. Individually wrapped wafers and grape juice are available near each station. Your communion server can point you to them if desired.

COMMUNION HYMN

Graves into Gardens

Christopher Joel Brown · Steven Furtick · Brandon Lake · Tiffany Hammeraul

I searched the world,
But it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise
And treasures that fade
Are never enough.

Then you came along
And put me back together.
And every desire
Is now satisfied
Here in your love.

*Oh, there's nothing better than you.
There's nothing better than you.
Lord, there's nothing,
Nothing is better than you.*

I'm not afraid
To show you my weakness.
My failures and flaws,
Lord, you've seen 'em all,
And you still call me friend.

'Cause the God of the mountain
Is the God of the valley.
There's not a place
Your mercy and grace
Won't find me again. *Chorus*

You turn mourning to dancing.
You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory.
You're the only one who can.

You turn graves into gardens.
You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can. *Chorus*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever,
Amen.

BENEDICTION

We begin our worship with God's gracious invitation, and we conclude with God's blessing, his good Word. It is appropriate to look up and open our palms as we receive the Benediction to symbolize how Jesus Christ lifts our heads and to demonstrate our eagerness to receive God's blessing.

DISMISSAL

LEADER Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Members of our prayer team will be available immediately following the service at the front of the sanctuary to pray confidentially for you about any need or concern you might have. We encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity to receive prayer. ☺

REQUEST FOR CARE

If you have a financial or practical care need for which you'd like to request assistance from Central, our deacons are readily available to discuss that with you. Please email care@centralchurchnyc.org and detail your situation so one of our deacons can contact you directly.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to fill out this year's congregational survey at centralchurchnyc.org/survey.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2026 Year-to-Date Giving: \$977,000