



**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 29, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

**Facebook, YouTube and SpiritOfGrace.Church**

**WELCOME! Your presence is a gift.**

**You are cherished by God.**

***Come, let us worship the Lord!***

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***We invite you to create worship space in your home for the service. You may wish to light a candle to create an atmosphere for worship.***

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.

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The Congregation's Part is in **bold**.

## GATHERING SONG

### I GIVE YOU MY HEART

This is my desire  
To honor You  
Lord with all my heart  
I worship You  
All I have within me  
I give You praise  
All that I adore is in You  
  
Lord I give You my heart  
I give You my soul  
I live for You alone  
Ev'ry breath that I take  
Ev'ry moment I'm awake  
Lord have Your way in me

CCLI Song #1866132

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Reuben Morgan

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## OPENING DIALOGUE

When our lives are joyous and laughter abounds,  
**Christ is dwelling there.**

When the news is grim and we have nowhere to turn,  
**Christ is dwelling there.**

In the water and word, the bread and wine,  
**Christ is dwelling there.**

In our life and our death, in the new life to come,  
**Christ is dwelling there.**

## THE COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

### The Collect

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.**

Lord, open our lips

**And our mouth shall declare your praise.**

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.**

### The First Lesson

#### **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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."

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. 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. 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.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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.’ 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. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

### Psalm 130

**1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the  
voice of my supplication.**

**2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord,  
who could stand?**

**3 For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.**

**4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.**

**5 My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

**6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy;**

**7 With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

## The Second Lesson

### **Romans 8:6-11**

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

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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## John 11:1-45

A Reading of the Gospel according to St. John.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 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." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 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. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

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." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 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. 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." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 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."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **MESSAGE**

**Pastor Kevin Ruffcorn**

Desert Streams Lutheran Church,  
Surprise, AZ

Read by **Carol Latimer**

## **THE MAASAI CREED**

*(This creed was composed by the Maasai people of East Africa. Through the experiences of the Maasai people, a universal faith is brought to life using local expressions.)*

**We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created Man and wanted Man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the Earth. We have known this High God in darkness, and now we know Him in the light.**



**God promised in the book of His word, the Bible, that He would save the world and all the nations and tribes.**

**We believe that God made good His promise by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left His home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing the meaning of religion is love.**

**He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, He rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.**

**We believe that all our sins are forgiven through Him. All who have faith in Him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love and share the bread together in love, to announce the Good News to others until Jesus comes again.**

**We are waiting for Him.**

**He is alive.**

**He lives.**

**This we believe. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.**

*Silence*

**For all people in their daily life and work; For those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week,**

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world; For our local schools, police officers, firefighters, healthcare professionals and leaders of the local community;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, especially all those affected by Covid-19, those who are feeling disconnected and alone, all who have been displaced from their jobs, and all those on our Spirit of Grace prayer list.

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Elizabeth Eaton and Michael Curry our Presiding Bishops, and Bonnie Perry and Donald Kreiss our Bishops; and for all bishops, priests, deacons and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

**For all the blessings we have received**

Let our prayers rise before you, O God, and receive them as signs of our witness to your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All our sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for us. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**    *Trading My Sorrows*

## **DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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 for ever. Amen.**

## **THE COLLECT FOR SUNDAY**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING**

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- *Things are changing day to day please check your email and our Facebook page (if you have it) for updates*
- *Please keep connected with each other by telephone and digital resources*
- *If you are not receiving church emails please follow the link on our website to sign up for our email blasts.*

## **BENEDICTION FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### **BLESSED BE YOUR NAME**

Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be Your name

*Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in  
Lord still I will say  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name*

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name

*Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in  
Lord still I will say  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name* You give and take away  
You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say  
Lord blessed be Your name

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Beth Redman / Matt Redman

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**DISMISSAL TO GO INTO THE WORLD WITH HOPE AND JOY**  
Go in peace. Care for all who are poor in spirit and life.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**