

Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 26, 2023

LOVE GOD ♦ LIVE THE WORD ♦ SERVE OTHERS ♦ SHARE CHRIST



Today we are reminded of the blessed promise that God brings life out of death. Whether it is breath to dead, brittle, dry bones or hope for those stuck in sorrow and despair, new life emerges by God's mighty hand. Jesus demonstrates this power to those around him as he raises Lazarus from the dead after four long days. This miracle foreshadows his own impending death and resurrection.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ♦ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ♦ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ♦ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ♦ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ♦ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE ONE

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

▼ MUSICAL PRELUDE / PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *(Spoken, adptd. from LBW, p.193)*

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive forgiveness, and grow in the fulness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. **Amen**

Almighty God, merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment.

But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being: forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

▲ HYMN "LORD JESUS CHRIST, BE PRESENT NOW" LBW #253

▲ KYRIE *(Sung)*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all... **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken)*

Let us pray. Holy One, your Son came into this world bringing salvation and life to all who believe. **May your Spirit breathe life into the dry bones of our lives so that we may follow and serve you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

▼ FIRST READING - Ezekiel 37:1-14 *(Pew Bible, p. 860)*

▼ SECOND READING - Romans 8:1-11 *(Pew Bible, p. 1122)*

▼ KCJAM CHOIR / CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ GOSPEL VERSE *(Sung)*

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - John 11:17-27, 38-53 *(Sung, Pew Bible, p. 1066)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

▼ SERMON

▲ HYMN OF THE DAY - "MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS" LBW # 293

▲ APOSTLES' CREED *(Spoken)*

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He 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

▲ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Spoken)*

▼ CHOIR ANTHEM - "JESUS, I COME"

▲ OFFERTORY *(Sung; LBW 502, st. 1)*

**Thee will I love, my strength, my tow'r; Thee will I love, my joy, my crown!
Thee will I love with all my pow'r, In all thy works, and thee, alone;
With true devotion willingly, My life I offer now to thee.**

▲ OFFERING PRAYER *(Spoken)*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken)*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ SANCTUS *(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

▲ WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

▲ AGNUS DEI *(Sung)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

▼ DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN *(Sung)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

▲ POST-COMMUNION DISMISSAL *(Spoken)*

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the (+)Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. **Amen**

▲ SENDING HYMN - "LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL" LBW #495

▲ DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Fight the good fight of faith. **Taking hold of eternal life to which we've been called.** (1 Tim. 6:12)

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 26, 2023

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"

She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.'"

-John 11:25-27-

Jesus was about to raise Lazarus from the dead. By itself, this miracle would not prove that Jesus was the Messiah; Elijah and Elisha had also raised people from the dead. By itself, then, this miracle would only prove that Jesus was a prophet. To prevent us from misinterpreting His work and His person, Jesus gives us some verbal revelation along with His redemptive act. In this revelation He spells out His identity for us: "I am the resurrection and the life."

And Lazarus' sister Martha, also confesses His identity: "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." Raising Lazarus from the dead shows that Jesus is the Christ. However, the Pharisees had a different idea. They were afraid of Jesus since He constantly upstaged them. He threatened their religious system and their vested interests. So they thought that He was an evil man. And since they couldn't deny Jesus' miracles, they often attributed them to an evil spirit. Thus, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, they did not repent and acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. Rather, they plotted to kill him (see Jn. 11:45-53)!

This wicked act shows us something of our own sinfulness. We are not primarily rational beings but reasoning beings. We often use our reason to support ideas, projects, and perspectives that derive from our sinful emotions and desires. Our will controls our intellect, and our will is bound in sin. Consequently, when we are set upon a certain perspective or course of action, we are resistant to opposing evidence. In fact, since our beliefs, projects, and perspectives derive from emotional grounds, opposing evidence only makes us mad, rather than convincing us. And the greater and more impressive the opposing evidence is, the angrier we become. Since our will is bound in sin, we will not acknowledge contrary evidence, not even if someone were to rise from the dead. And so, in the Pharisees' plot to kill Jesus, we see the nature of our own sin. Because we are by nature sinful and unclean, we have murderous, covetous, and adulterous hearts. And since our will is bound in sin, we are unable to free ourselves. However, since Jesus is the resurrection and the life, He is able to free us from ourselves, despite ourselves.

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