



Sunday, March 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Worship Service

INTRODUCTION

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. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: O mortal, can these bones live? *Ezek. 37:3; Ps. 130:7*
C: **Only the Lord God knows.**
P: O people, hope in the Lord.
C: **With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.**
P: To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us confess our sin. *Rom. 8:6, 10*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

C: O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you. Therefore, we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. Amen. *Ps. 130:3, 8*
John 4:5-42

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

P: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Ezek. 37:4
Rom 8:10-11

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

OPENING SONG

Great Are You Lord

Verse

You give life You are love You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord

Chorus

It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

Bridge

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord (REPEAT)

CCLI Song # 6460220 David Leonard | Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan

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DIALOGUE

P: O Lord, I cry to you for help.

C: **In the morning my prayer comes before you.**

P: Let my mouth be full of your praise

C: **and your glory all the day long.**

P: Every day will I bless you,

C: **and praise your name forever and ever.**

P: Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,

C: **O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.**

P: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C: **and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

P: You redeem my life from the grave,

C: **and crown me with mercy and steadfast love.**

P: Lord, hear my prayer,

C: **and let my cry come before you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

THEME - Dry Bones

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children ages 3-8 are invited to hear a message directed toward them at this time.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

¹The 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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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.”

⁷So 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy 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.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then 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.’ ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks, be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 130

I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

³If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks, be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: I am the resurrection and the life;

C: **whoever believes in me will never die.**

(John 11:25, 26)

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

P: The Gospel according to John, the 11th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But 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." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus 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. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸When 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.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The 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. ³²When 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.”

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The 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.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

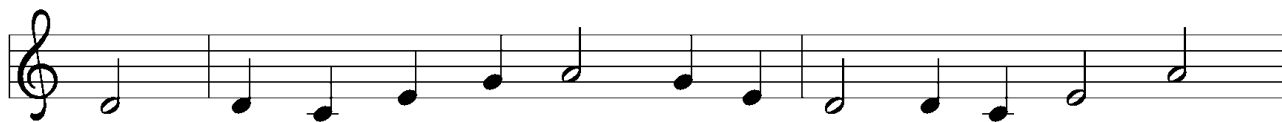
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

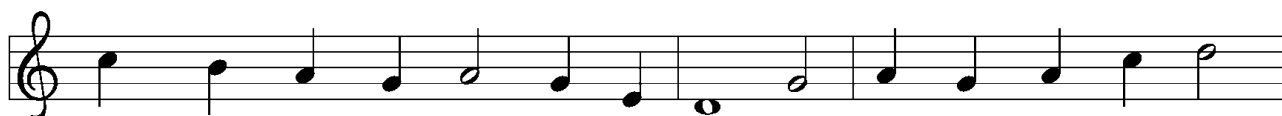
SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

APOSTLES' CREED

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 INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. We pray for ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA-Northern Illinois Synod Bishop Jeffrey Clements, Rev. Kristin Engstrom, our missionary and our Companion Churches, North Central Diocese of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania and Arcot Lutheran Church of southern India.

God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its renewal. Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other natural disasters. Bring all things to new life.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain especially those who suffer in mind, body and spirit, those affected by COVID-19 and those whose needs we regularly hold in our hearts.

Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again. Breathe new life into our dry bones, that we, too, might live with you forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through your son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

P: Peace be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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OFFERING PRAYER

C: Holy and generous host you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

What A Beautiful Name

Verse 1

You were the Word at the beginning One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ

Chorus 1

What a beautiful Name it is What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Verse 2

You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater What could separate us now

Chorus 2

What a wonderful Name it is What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Bridge

Death could not hold You The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory For You are raised to life again

Bridge

You have no rival You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory Yours is the Name above all names

Chorus 3

What a powerful Name it is What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus

Ending

What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus

CCLI Song # 7068424

Ben Fielding | Brooke Ligertwood

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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.

P: Let us pray.

C: **Praise and thanks to you, holy God**

P: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: **Amen.**

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Blessed Be Your Name

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

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

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord Still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3

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

Verse 4

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

Bridge

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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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks, be to God.**