

God Be With You!

Prior to beginning the Worship service the Joys / God Moments that were shared during the week are listed below:

From Sharon Wilcox:

“My daughter Rajeania had her feeding tube removed today (Tuesday, March 24) and is now eating and holding down soup. We are so happy! She knew everyone was praying for her and told me to tell everyone ‘thank you for praying’ and that's what carried her through. We think she is on the way to recovery now. Thank you everyone. Love, Sharon”

From Paige Poppe:

Thanks be to God for “the multitude of people doing our Lord’s work in the community by coming together to feed and spiritually nourish others.”

From Joanna Nannestad:

“Josh and the kids and I safely completed our "socially-distanced" travels to Iowa (minimal stops and constant disinfecting) where we were able to purchase our new home. Closing date is in May and we will be moving the first week of June!”

SPECIAL NOTES:

Pastor Brady has provided an audio of this service’s SERMON, which is included in separate e-mail.

Joanna and Josh Nannestad have made a YouTube video of the three hymns included in this Worship Service, which may be accessed through Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church’s Facebook Page.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Durant, Oklahoma

Worshipping in Place in a Time of Pandemic
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020



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.

Opening Hymn:

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land



Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a



wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a



wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.



1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum - bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Invocation

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be among us all, together and apart. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Lessons

Ezekiel 37:1-14, RSV

37 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley;^[a] it was full of bones. **2** And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley;^[b] and lo, they were very dry. **3** And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, thou knowest.” **4** Again he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5** Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath^[c] to enter you, and you shall live. **6** And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath^[d] in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8** And as I looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. **9** Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath,^[e] Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[f] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” **10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host.

11 Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ **12** Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. **13** And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. **14** And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it, says the Lord.”

Psalm 130. RSV

Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord!

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let thy ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

³ If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with thee,

that thou mayest be feared.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is plenteous redemption.

⁸ And he will redeem Israel

from all his iniquities.

Romans 8:6-11, RSV

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

John 11: 1-45, Eggleston's Unauthorized Translation

But there was a sick man named Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with ointment wiping his feet with her hair. So, the sisters sent to Jesus saying, "Look here, the one whom you love is very sick."

Hearing this Jesus said, "This sickness is not the death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." But Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus.

So when he heard of Lazarus' sickness, he stayed where he was for two days. After this, he told his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea again". They responded, "Rabbi, the Jews there were looking to stone you, and you want to go back there again?" Jesus answered, "Aren't there twelve hours of daylight? If anyone walks in the day, he doesn't stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks around in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." Saying this, he commented, "Our friend

Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going to wake him up.” His disciples responded, “If he’s fallen asleep, he’ll get well”. Now Jesus had been talking about Lazarus’ death, but they thought he spoke about the sleep of slumber. So Jesus spoke plainly, “Lazarus has died, and I rejoice for you, that you might believe, because I was not there. Let’s go to him. So, Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his colleagues, “Okay...let’s go with him that we might die with him.”

Arriving, Jesus found him already four days in the tomb. Bethany was about two miles from Jerusalem and many of the Religious Folks had come to Mary and Martha that they might console them about their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. Mary stayed in the house. Martha then said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died”. To which Jesus responded, “Your brother will rise again”. Martha replied, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus responded, “I am the resurrection and the life, the one who believes in me will live even if he should die, and everyone living and believing in me will never die in eternity. Do you believe this?” She responded, “Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” Saying this, she went and secretly called her sister Mary, saying, “The Teacher is here and calls for you.” Hearing this, she quickly rose and came to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So the Religious Folks who’d been in the house consoling her, followed thinking, “She’s going to weep at the tomb.” So when Mary came to where Jesus was, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

So when Jesus saw her crying, along with the crying Religious Folks coming with her, he groaned in his spirit and was troubled himself. He asked, “Where have you put him?” They answered, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept. The Religious Folks commented, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Couldn’t this man, who opened eyes of the blind man, keep this man from dying?”

Groaning again, Jesus approached the tomb. Now it was a cave with a stone lying on it. Jesus said “Ya’ll lift the stone.” Martha, sister of the one who had died, protested, “Lord, he stinks, it has now been four days.” Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they lifted the stone and Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father I thank you that you did hear me. I know that you always hear me, but because of this crowd of bystanders I spoke that they might believe that you really did send me.” After saying these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus come out”. The dead man came out, his hands and feet having been bound with bandages, and with a napkin bound around his face. Jesus told them, “Untie him and let him go”.

So...many of the Religious Folks, those who’d come with Mary, saw what he did and believed in him.

Sermon

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

This certainly is not the Lenten season which I'd expected and anticipated... filled as it is, with the anxiety and uncertainty and disruption that comes with pandemic coronavirus... requiring us to worship in place, together and apart... In the midst of it all, let us listen to Jesus once again, as he tells us,

I am the Resurrection and the Life... I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

As John, the Beloved Disciple, tells us the story of Jesus... he frames his portrayal of Jesus through a series of seven great "signs", what we've commonly called miracles... but much, much than miracles... for they are not magic tricks, but windows into the reality of Jesus' relationship with his Heavenly Father... windows into the reality of the relationship which God our Heavenly Father wishes to have with us through Jesus our Lord...

First, there had been that wedding feast at Cana in Galilee... Early in his ministry, while Jesus was beginning to gather disciples... he and his friends had gone to a wedding celebration... We're not sure why, but they'd run out of wine... Perhaps it was poor planning on the part of the hosting family... perhaps it was that Jesus' friends had arrived uninvited and unplanned for and had consumed too much... For whatever reason, they'd run out of wine, and Jesus' mother Mary had presumed upon her son to do something about it...and Jesus had converted a very large amount of water into wine, so that the party might continue... very good wine, as the Steward remarked, "the best saved for last".

I am the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus tells us, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Next, there'd been the Roman politician's son in Capernaun... Sick and in bed with a fever and likely in danger of dying, his father had come to Jesus in desperation, begging Jesus to bring healing... Jesus had replied, "Go, your son will live"... and returning home, the Roman politician was greeted with the news that the fever had broken, and that his son was going to make it... all about the time Jesus had declared "Go, your son will live."

I am the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus tells us, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Third, Jesus and his disciples had gone to Jerusalem...On the Sabbath day, visiting the pool at Bethesda, Jesus had encountered a paralyzed man who'd been sick for thirty-eight years... to which Jesus had said, "Rise, take up your pallet and walk"... as to the great surprise of everyone watching, the formerly paralyzed man did exactly that... What was the response of the good church folks standing by? The rules being far more important than real people...they were upset that Jesus had healed this man on the Sabbath...

I am the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus tells us, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Fourth, by now Jesus had collected quite a crowd following him around... so that one day after a long day of teaching by the Sea of Galilee... Jesus and his disciples had discovered that they had a rather large crowd of hungry folks on their hands... assessing available resources, the disciples had found a young boy whose mother had packed him a lunch consisting of five cupcake sized barley muffins and two sardine-sized pickled fish to smear on them, (much in the way that we'd smear peanut butter or jelly on a piece of bread)... Sitting the crowd down, Jesus had taken these impossibly meager resources, blessed them... and before he was done handing them out, over five thousand men (plus uncounted women and children) had eaten to satisfaction... with leftovers leftover. The folks in the crowd, who'd never seen anything like this declared, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!"

I am the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus tells us, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Fifth, after the great picnic on the beach, Jesus had gone off by himself to pray... Meanwhile, the disciples had gotten into the boat to cross back to Capernaum on the other side...In the dark, as they rowed into the wind, they were startled to see a shape coming toward them through the night... It was Jesus striding toward them atop the

waves, walking upon the water... Scared out of their wits...Jesus reassures them, “It is I, do not be afraid.”

I am the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus tells us, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Sixth, in the story we heard last week, Jesus and his disciples pass along, encountering a man who'd spent his entire life in the darkness of blindness... Jesus had scooped upon a handful of dirt, spit on it, and made mud... mud which he applied to the eyes of the blind man... instructing him to go the pool of Siloam and wash... He did... and the man discovered that for the first time in his life he could see... and this stupendous turn of events, instead of causing great rejoicing that he who'd been blind could now see... this stupendous turn of events had caused all kinds of community consternation... Why? Because once again Jesus had healed on the Sabbath... and the good religious folks, for whom the rules were far more important than real people like this man who'd formerly been blind from the day of his birth....

I am the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus tells us, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

This brings us to today's Gospel lesson...as Jesus' friends Mary and Martha rebuke him... “Lord, you're late... you're tardy in arriving... If you'd only been here, our brother Lazarus would not have died”... as Jesus has stood before the tomb of his friend, Lazarus, and as John tells us in the shortest of all the verses in the Bible, “Jesus wept”... and then to the great surprise of all standing by, Jesus has commanded, “Remove the stone door”... Ever practical Martha has protested, “Lord it's been four days, he'll stink!”... “Remove the stone door”, Jesus commands... and as they do... Jesus calls out, “Lazarus, come out!” and he does... Lazarus, dressed in his grave clothes, wrapped in up like a mummy, with a napkin over his face, must have been quite a sight!

I am the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus tells us, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Seven signs along the way of Jesus' ministry... as he travels now toward betrayal and trial and scourging and crucifixion... Seven signs, much like the seven-day week of the old Creation... The raising of Lazarus is the last straw... the good religious folks... and their religious leadership can stand no more from Jesus... and the events the events of Holy Week... Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday... the events of Holy Week will soon begin to play themselves out... as Jesus will be finally gloried as King of Kings and Lord of Lords... crowned with thorns... and enthroned... upon his Holy Cross... and beyond, there will be one more sign... as the Resurrection morning will herald for you and me the dawn of God's new creation... Meanwhile, in these last days of Lent, filled as they are with the anxiety and uncertainty and disruption of pandemic coronavirus... even as we worship in place, together and apart... it is incumbent upon us to listen carefully as Jesus tells us,

I am the Resurrection and the Life ... I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

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

Hymn of the Day:

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life, You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not the hun - get, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
 I . . . am the life . . . If you be -
 you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -
drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
lieve . . . in . . . me, and e - ven . . . though you
Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain
All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

Text: Suzanne Toofan, M.M., b. 1927, based on John 6
Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toofan, M.M.
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Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of the People

Responsive sentence for the Sundays in Lent:

The day of the Lord is coming:

He abounds in steadfast love.

Heavenly Father, sometimes we sense that our lives are very dry, like the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision. We need your Holy breath, your Holy Spirit, so that all of our other senses may be keen to your presence, your work, your love among us. **R**

Lord Jesus Christ, hear us when we cry to you. Lord Jesus Christ, may we hear you when you speak to us. **R**

Holy Spirit, live in us with Jesus Christ, so that He who raised Jesus from the dead will live in us and be our God. **R**

Jesus, you have seen the sadness of all of us who mourn in Mary's weeping over Lazarus. We hold to your promise that all of us will rise again, as we hear you call our names. **R**

We rejoice over all the glories of this day, and thank you for your goodness to us all. Help us see the needs of others, help us hear their cries, and help us be your helping hands. **R**

Those among us who are ill know that they are named before you out of love and compassion. Hear us as we name them now: _____ . **R**

- **HUGHES & MERIDETH FAMILIES** *struggles w/numerous health issues*
- **KYM Earles** *health & life struggles*
- **ALBERT Jackson** *life struggles*
- **SHARON Cottengim** *health struggles*
- **KATHLEEN & BRANDON Burnette** *life struggles*
- **ADDIE Curtis** *child with health struggles*
- **JIM Watt** *health struggles*
- **WAYNE Weissenbuehler** *health concerns*
- **ADAM & FAMILY** *life struggles*
- **CHISUM FAMILY** *life struggles*
- **STEVE Kirven** *health/healing*
- **TERRY Bona** *health struggles*
- **ASHLEY Monk** *health*
- **RICK Payne** *multiple health issues/struggles*
- **IRENE Ruse** *health issues*
- **JUSTIN McNabb** *health*
- **LINO Ramirez** *health/healing*
- **STEPHANIE Mangrum** *healing/health*
- **MEGAN & BRAD Hill** *life struggles*
- **RHONDA Clouse** *health struggles*
- **GARY Dominick** *health struggles*
- **DEBRA Johnson** *health/healing*
- **KELLY Finley** *serious health issues*
- **PAISLEY & FAMILY Choate** *child with serious health issues*
- **PAM Neal** *health/well-being*
- **DAVID Anderson** *health/well-being*
- **CHARLIE & CAROL Burnette** *health & healing/strength & well-being*
- **HAROLD Harmon** *health*
- **RAJEANIA & FAMILY Johnson** *Thanksgiving for improvement*
- **VICTIMS OF CORONA VIRUS & CONTROL OF SPREADING THIS VIRUS**
- **CORSON FAMILY** *transition/life changes*
- **CURT Silvestri** *health*
- **JOANNA & JOSH Nannestad** *life changes*
- **FAMILY OF JOHN Childress** *mourning loss of loved one & friend*
- **FAMILY OF VINNY Cacase** *mourning loss of loved one & friend*
- **KANDACE Keith** *health*
- **FAMILY OF RAND Burnette** *mourning loss of loved one (Brandon's uncle)*

- **JAN** Eggleston *recovery/healing*
- **FAMILY OF JESSICA** Espinoza *mourning tragic loss of a beloved mother & family member*
- **MARILYN** Comer *health concern*
- **OLEN** Beaver *child traumatized by tragic event*
- **LARRY, ROWENA & FAMILY** Hughes *health issues/life struggles*
- **JAY** Nick *healing*
- **TIM** Nick *heath/healing*
- **FAMILY OF ROBYN** Sanders *mourning loss of loved one*
- **JACKSON FAMILY** *health issues*
- **JOSH** Dufur *35yr son of DHS teacher hospitalized with serious illness*
- **WASHINGTON IRVING SCHOOL** *prayer & partnership with staff, teachers & students*
- **WESLEY CENTER** *students, staff & programs*
- **LIGHT OF HOPE SHELTER** *praying that this homeless shelter soon becomes a reality.*
- **FOUR MILE LUTHERAN** *Mabank*
- **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN** *Marshall*
- **ELCA SEMINARIES**
- **OUR SAVIOUR'S** *ministries/community outreach/transition*

Though we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return, we remember that we are your precious dust. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: **In the Bulb There Is a Flower**
Hymn of Promise



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - 'ry dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty;



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Text: Natalie Sleeth
Music: HYMN OF PROMISE. Natalie Sleeth
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Benediction

And now may Almighty God, the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us together and apart, keeping us in his light, in his grace, in his love, and his mercy, and his truth, now and forever. Amen.

Worship Service developed by The Rev. T. Brady Eggleston
Music Selection by Joanna Nannestad