



**FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

*"Raising Up
Families and Followers
of Jesus Christ"*

WORSHIP

Traditional – 8:30 am

Contemporary – 11:15 am

Education Hour – 10:00 am

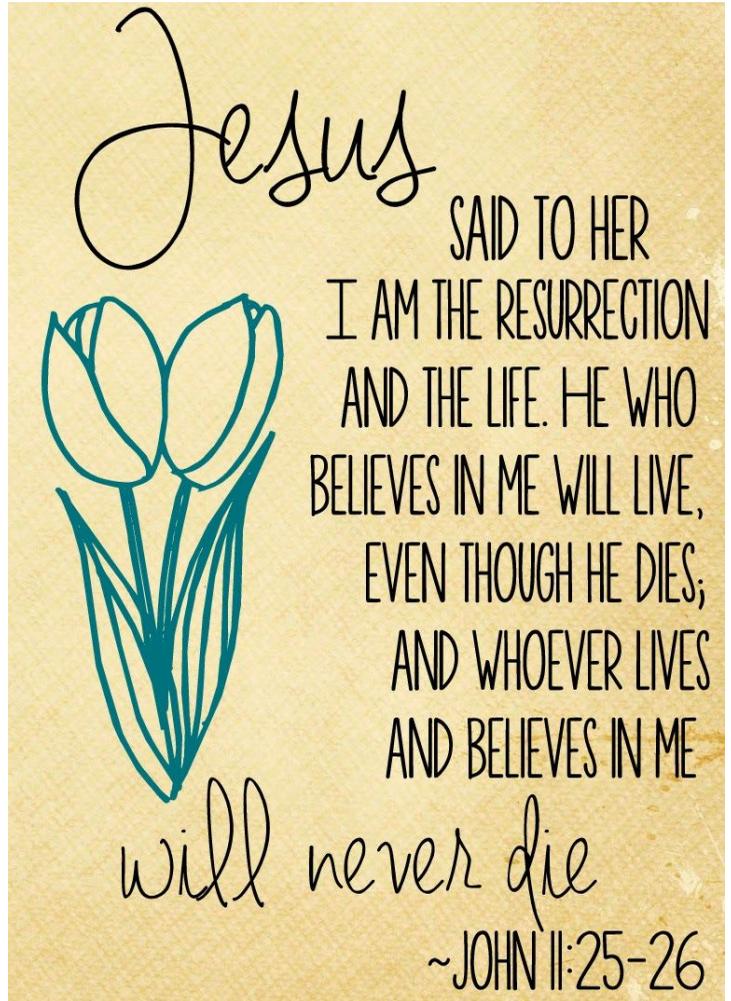
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The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
From Death to Life
March 29, 2020
Combined Service - 9:30 AM

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION John 1:12; Philippians 1:6

p. 151

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

All: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness**

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

OPENING HYMN “Christ, the Life of All the Living” *LSB 420 vs. 1,4*

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ the death of death, our foe
Who, Thyself for me once giving - to the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'ring death, and merit - I eternal life inherit;
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto Thee

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken of Thee - bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, - O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver - from the bonds of sin forever
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto Thee

SALUTATION

p. 156

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. He preserves the simple; when I was brought low, He saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

All: **Amen.**

HYMN

“Christ, the Life of All the Living” LSB 420 vs. 6-7

Thou hast suffered great affliction and hast borne it patiently
Even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee
Then, for all that wrought my pardon, for Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, for Thy bleeding and Thy dying
For that last triumphant cry, and shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

KYRIE – *Lord Have Mercy*

p. 152

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

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

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All: Amen.

SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Leader: In this, our last Sunday in the season of Lent prior to Holy Week, we are given the truth of the life the Lord has come to bring. Ezekiel sees a vision of dry bones brought to life by the breath and power of God. In the Epistle to the Romans, we hear of our life in Christ through the Spirit, and in that life to live not of the flesh. In the Holy Gospel, we hear the greatest sign through which our Lord foreshadows His own resurrection, bringing a dead and decaying Lazarus back to life, which also foreshadows the resurrection and eternal life for all who believe.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 37:1–14 (The valley of dry bones)

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy over 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 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 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 sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, 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, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on 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 on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

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 indeed 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 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 am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:1–11* (Life in the Spirit)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For 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, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life 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 also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 11:1–53* (Jesus is the resurrection and the life.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "My Song Is Love Unknown" LSB 430 vs.1,2,7

My song is love unknown - my Savior's love to me
Love to the loveless shown - that they might lovely be
O who am I - That for my sake - my Lord should take - frail flesh and die
He came from His blest throne - salvation to bestow
But men made strange and none - the longed-for Christ would know
But O my Friend - My Friend indeed - who at my need - His life did spend
Here might I stay and sing - no story so divine
Never was love dear King - never was grief like Thine
This is my Friend - In whose sweet praise - I all my days - could gladly spend

SERMON *John 11:1–53*

**All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was
made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: The resurrection to eternal life has come to the world in Christ Jesus. Let us pray for the deliverance of all who belong to Christ by faith and for all for whom He died and rose again.

O God, as You created everything out of nothing by Your mighty Word, so You have brought resurrection and eternal life to light by the mighty command of Your Son, Jesus, who went through death and emerged victorious over death. Help us to learn from Ezekiel's vision the death that comes when we lose faith and the life we gain through Your Spirit. Receive our praise and thanks for Your gift of eternal life.

Help us to live as Your resurrection people, bringing the might of Your Word to all. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: As our Lenten season soon transitions to Holy Week, help us continue to recognize our sin, our need for repentance, and our dependence on our Savior. Help us learn from Paul's Letter to the Romans to continually put to death those things of the flesh that lead us astray, that we be fed and led by Your life-giving Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We lift up those who mourn and carry grief and sorrow in the loss of loved ones. Help us learn from our Savior at Lazarus's tomb, that death is not the last word of this life, that we rejoice in Your promises made, fulfilled, and yet to come of the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. Enable and equip us to be heralds of the hope that is ours and witness to Christ and the power of His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Inspire and bless all called to preach Your Word and administer Your Holy Sacraments with resurrection power, that they do not grow weary but grow in compassion and perseverance. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: For the sake of Your Word, by which You cause repentance and faith to issue from human hearts, guide the leaders of nations and communities in our world to pursue ways of peace and tranquility among people, that Your Word be preached for the salvation of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who are sick or infirm, disabled, or troubled, breathe Your Life-giving Spirit into all in need, that hope, comfort, and peace in You may be theirs. Remind us that our ultimate healing is in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

Leader: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

Leader: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through Your word, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

p. 166

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

All: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” *LSB 576*

My hope is built on nothing less - Than Jesus' blood and righteousness

No merit of my own I claim - But wholly trust in Jesus' name

On Christ the solid rock I stand - All other ground is sinking sand

When darkness veils His lovely face - I rest on His unchanging grace

In every high and stormy gale - My anchor holds and within the veil

On Christ the solid rock I stand - All other ground is sinking sand

His oath His covenant and blood – Support me in the raging flood

When every earthly prop gives way - He then is all my hope and stay

On Christ the solid rock I stand - All other ground is sinking sand