

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Waiting

March 29, 2020



## AS WE GATHER

With the onset of the Covid19 virus and its impact on our lives, we now truly realize this world is often filled with change and challenges, distress, despair, dying, and death. Yet Jesus came into this decaying world that we may have life, and have it to the full. Amid the changes and decay around us, through His Word and Means of Grace we are given new life and the forgiveness of sins. By faith, we give thanks for His abiding with us daily with His mercy, grace, promise, and peace. The Psalmist in 130 calls out, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word, I hope." What powerful words for us to hear in these days.

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

## HYMN LSB 427 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred  
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -  
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

## INVOCATION

Pastor: We gather today celebrating life: Life created by the Father;  
**People: life restored by Jesus Christ, the life of all the living, who is the resurrection and the life;**  
Pastor: life sanctified by the living breath of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People: Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 116:1–9; Ezekiel 37:13–14, adapted*

Pastor: I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.  
**People: Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**  
  
Pastor: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.  
**People: Then I called on the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**  
  
Pastor: We come before our Lord, confessing our sins and seeking His forgiveness.

### *Silence for reflection*

Pastor: The apostle Paul has called us to live life through the Spirit, not according to the flesh.  
**People: We confess we have not put to death the things of the flesh and have sinned against You by what we have done and left undone, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
  
Pastor: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. The LORD 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.  
  
The LORD will open the graves and put His Spirit within His people, and they shall live. God, in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and through His death brought life and immortality to light. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People: Amen.**

**HYMN**      LSB 763 “When Peace, Like a River”



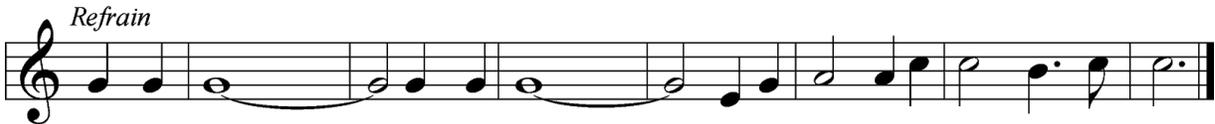
1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way;    When  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,    Let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought;    My  
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,    The



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll;    What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,    That Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole,    Is nailed to His cross, and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll,    The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say,    It is well,    it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate    And hath shed    His own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more.    Praise the Lord,    praise the Lord,    O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend;    E - ven so    it is well with my soul.



*Refrain*  
It is well                      with my soul,                      It is well, it is well with my soul.

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**SALUTATION**

**Pastor:**        The Lord be with you.

**People:**        And also with you.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**All:**            Almighty God, in whom is life now and forever, through Your Son’s suffering and death You have given us victory over all we ever need fear in sin, eternal death, and the power of the devil. Breathe into our bones and our souls Your life-giving Word, that we rejoice in Your forgiveness and serve You and others in love and faithfulness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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 on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. **2** He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. **3** He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” **4** Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! **5** This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. **6** I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’” **7** So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. **8** I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin 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 it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” **10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. **11** Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ **12** Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. **13** Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. **14** I

will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM** *Psalm 130*

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; **2** Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. **3** If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? **4** But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. **5** I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. **6** I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. **7** Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. **8** He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

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

**8** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. **3** For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5** Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6** The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. **7** The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. **8** Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. **9** You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. **10** But if Christ is in you,

then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. **11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**VERSE** *John 11:25*

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live.

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 11:17-27, 38-53* (Jesus is the resurrection and the life.)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**17** On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

**18** Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, **19** and many Jews had come

to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. **20** When Martha heard

that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. **21** "Lord,"

Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But I

know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your

brother will rise again." **24** Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the

resurrection at the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.

The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26** and whoever lives by

believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **27** "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I

believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

**38** Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid

across the entrance. **39** "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the

sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four

days.” 40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” 45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. “What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. 48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.” 49 Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! 50 You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.” 51 He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, 52 and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. 53 So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** LSB 702 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;  
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my  
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's  
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!  
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.  
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

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**MESSAGE** “Waiting” *Psalm 130*

**OFFERTORY** VIDEO: “I WILL WAIT”

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: 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.**

**People: 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.**

**People: 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.**

**Pastor: Comfort and heal all those who are sick or infirm, disabled, or troubled. In these days of the Covid19 pandemic 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.**

**All: 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.  
Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**     *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: We depart today and continue each day celebrating life:

**People: life created by the Father;**

Pastor: life restored by Jesus Christ, the life of all the living, who is the resurrection and the life;

**People: life sanctified by the living breath of the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. *Hebrews 13:20–21*

**People: Amen.**

## HYMN LSB 924 “Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with  
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's  
 3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion  
 pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;  
 In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
 Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

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