

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 26, 2023  
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

## *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 new sisters and brothers at the baptismal font, as we renew our baptismal promises.

## *Coming and Going*

There is a lot of coming and going in today's gospel. Mary and Martha send a messenger to Jesus with news that Lazarus is ill. Jesus and his disciples do not go right away, but eventually they come to Martha after Lazarus has died. We learn that many had come to console the sisters. Martha proclaims Jesus "the Messiah, the Son of God, is the one coming into the world" (John 11:27). She then goes to get Mary, who comes quickly to Jesus. Mary is weeping, and so are those who come with her. When Jesus asks where Lazarus is, they invite him to come and see. They all go to the tomb. With all of this coming and going, it is not surprising that Jesus tells Lazarus to come out and that Jesus commands others to unbind him so he can go.

Lazarus emerging from the tomb is a remarkable moment, but just as remarkable are the connections of all of this story's coming and going with our daily lives. Our health comes and goes. Jobs come and go. People come into our lives and go. Kids go, and perhaps come back again. Sometimes we are the ones who come and go. The grief of loss and death comes and goes. Tears come and go. Hope can even come and go.

Amid this movement, we come together in worship. We come to gather around the font and the table and hear again the stories of Jesus coming into the world, going to the cross, and coming again in the resurrection. We come together with our griefs and joys, our struggles and celebrations, all that binds us and sets us free. We come to gather, surrounded by God's grace. Having come, we will go in peace to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High (W&P 90)*

1 My Lord, what love is this that pays so  
2 And so they watched him die, de - spised, re -  
3 And now this love of Christ shall flow like

dear - ly, that I, the guilt - y one, may go free?  
ject - ed; but, oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.  
riv - ers; come, wash your guilt a - way, live a - gain.

*Refrain*

A - maz - ing love, oh, what sac - ri - fice, the Son of God giv'n for

me; my debt he pays and my death he dies, that

I might live, that I might live.

**OPENING LITANY: Psalm 130**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

**O Lord, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

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

**Yet with you is forgiveness,  
and the knowledge of your path.**

I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits! In your word is my hope.

**More than the nightwatch awaits the dawn,  
my soul waits for the Lord**

Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;  
with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

**For the Lord will redeem his people from all their sins.  
The Lord will rescue his children from their iniquity.**

**GATHERING SONGS**

*I Give You My Heart*

(Verse - Music Ministers)

This is my desire: to honour you.  
Lord, with all my heart, I worship you.  
All I have within me, I give you praise.  
All that I adore is in you.

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, I give you my heart, I give you my soul.  
I live for you alone.  
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,  
Lord have your way in me.**

(Verse - Music Ministers)

This is my desire: to honour you.  
Lord, with all my heart, I worship you.  
All I have within me, I give you praise.  
All that I adore is in you.

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, I give you my heart, I give you my soul.  
I live for you alone.  
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,  
Lord have your way in me.**

**Lord, I give you my heart, I give you my soul.  
I live for you alone.  
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,  
Lord have your way in me.**

*One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Higher than the mountains that I face.  
Stronger than the power of the grave,  
Constant in the trial and the change,  
One thing remains, one thing remains.  
Your love, your love, your love will never change.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

On and on and on and on it goes.  
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.  
And I never, ever have to be afraid.  
One thing remains, one thing remains.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:  
Your love.**

**(Verse 3 - All)**

**On and on and on and on it goes.  
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.  
And I never, ever have to be afraid.  
One thing remains, one thing remains.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:  
Your love.**

(Music Ministers/**All**)

In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
By the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart  
From your great love.

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
By the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart  
From your great love.**

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:  
Your love.**

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
By the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart  
From your great love, your love.**

(Final Verse - Music Ministers)  
Higher than the mountains that I face.  
Stronger than the power of the grave,  
Constant in the trial and the change,  
One thing remains, one thing remains:  
Your love.

*Be Thou My Vision*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## CONFESSION

God of love, we are blessed for the many ways you have revealed yourself to us in the Word and in our own lives. Open our eyes and soften our hearts as we prepare to journey with Christ through his final days on earth. As we consider the sacrifice and suffering of our Lord, renew our understanding that you are love itself. Help us to appreciate the demands of love, and strengthen us for service. Grant us your mercy for the countless times we have failed to show to others the compassion you have shown us.

Forgive us:

**for not giving of ourselves completely and unconditionally;  
for times that we had the opportunity to relieve the burden of another, but chose not to;  
for prioritizing ourselves above our relationships;  
for our complacency with systems that impoverish, disenfranchise, or otherwise fail to honor the dignity of every human being;  
for letting pride, anger, and differences of opinion divide us from one another;  
for our attachment to self-will and individuality, which often keep us from appreciating that we are parts of a whole.**

Father, you know us. You are at the very center of our being. In the silence of our hearts we acknowledge the times that through selfishness and fear we have wounded others and caused harm to relationships.

*(Brief silence.)*

God, break our hearts of stone. Make our hearts bleed for each other, as Christ bled for us. Strengthen our love and forgive our failings. **Amen.**

## FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **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.**



# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **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."*

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

The 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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I 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." So 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. I 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. Then 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." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then 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.' Therefore 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. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I 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."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## 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.*

A reading from the book of Romans.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But 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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*\* GOSPEL

**John 11:1-45**

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But 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." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus 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. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,

she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When 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." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The 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. When 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." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus 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." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I 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." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The 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." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

## **YOUTH MESSAGE**

### **MESSAGE**

*Pastor Jamie Vannoy*

**\*\* APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 COMMUNITY**

**GATHERING OF GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

## **\*\* LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **\*\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**HOLY COMMUNION** - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond:* **Amen.**

**Communion Statement** ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

*NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.*

**REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work **in us and through us** in the coming days.*

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace.  
**Amen.**

**\*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Embodied God, **at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## \*\* BLESSING

God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

## \*\* SENDING HYMN

*I Am the Bread of Life (ELW 485, verses 1, 4 & 5)*

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 hun - ger, 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 . . . .

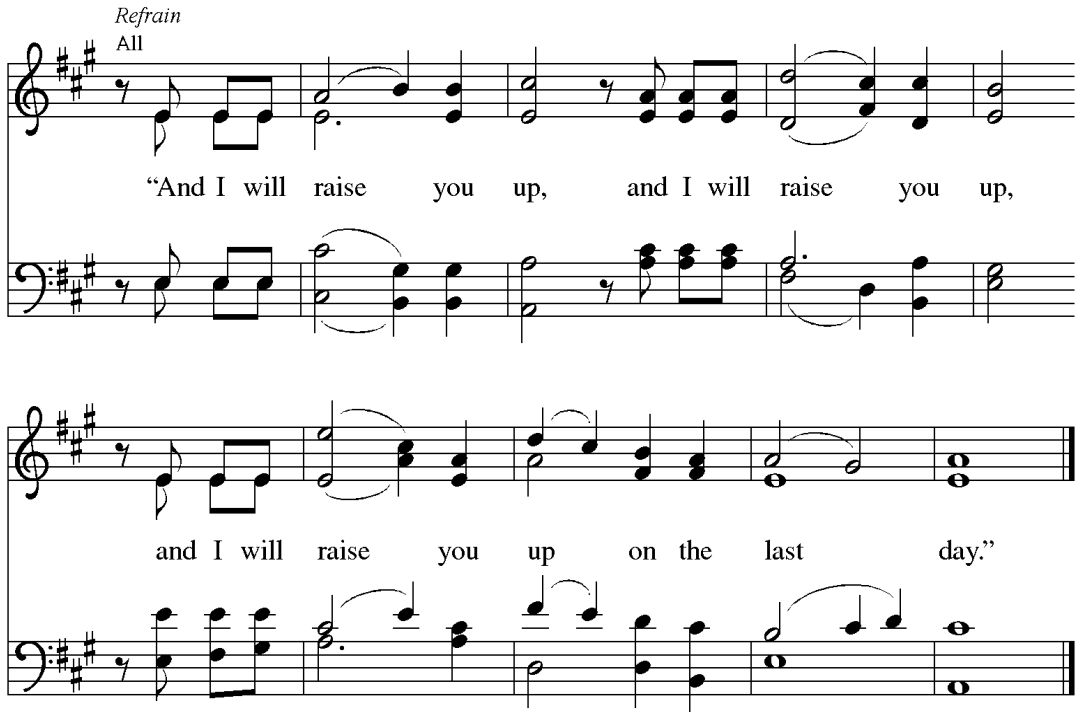


lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
eat . . . . . of this bread, you shall . . live for -  
drink . . . . . of his blood, and drink . . . . . of his  
lieve . . . . . in . . . . . me, e - ven . . though you  
Son . . . . . of . . . . . God, who . . . . . have . . . .



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.”

**\*\* DISMISSAL**  
Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.**  
Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**  
**Make a commitment to not only worship each week**  
**but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation**  
**and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22920.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.