

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 26, 2023

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, FALLS CHURCH, VA



PRELUDE (8:00) *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Setting: Jonathan Campbell
(10:30) *Pauline Bell Ringer* *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*
Setting: William Moats

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN (Stand) #425 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

- 1 **When I survey the wondrous cross
 On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
 And pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2 **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
 Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to His blood.**
- 3 **See, from His head, His hands, His feet
 Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
 Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
- 4 **Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
 Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

LSB 184

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(We kneel and observe a time reflection)

O almighty God, merciful Father,
I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INTROIT (Stand)

Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and `merciful,
Slow to anger and abounding in `steadfast love.

**Jesus said: If any man would come `after me,
Let him deny himself and take up his cross and `follow me.**

Christ was wounded for our `transgressions;
He was bruised for our `iniquities.

LSB 186



☐ Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

HYMN OF PRAISE (omitted during Lent)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Amen.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON (Be seated)

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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. 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. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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."

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. 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. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, 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." 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.

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.' 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. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 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."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(10:30) ANTHEM Jubilation Choir

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Setting: John Helgen

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
 Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
 So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
 And He has made me glad.

- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
 Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 And now I live in Him.

- I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Come unto me, I'll show the way."

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise
 And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
 In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
 Till trav'ling days are done.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 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, 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. 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. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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. But if Christ is in you, although 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 Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(10:30) CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL VERSE (Stand)

from One and All Rejoice

**O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

GOSPEL

John 11:1, 3, 17-27, 38-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 11th chapter

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

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

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 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." 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 lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 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." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

In the old one year lectionary that was in place when I was ordained, the 5th Sunday of Lent was called "Judica" or "Judgment" and was also Passion Sunday when the Gospel story of Jesus' suffering and death was read. Lent 5 is very different in our 3 year lectionary, and Passion Sunday is not until next week, Palm Sunday. So different are the themes, that our 2nd lesson from Romans 8 begins, "There is now no condemnation (Judgment) for those who are in Christ Jesus." Quite different from focusing on God's righteous Judgment.

So different that our OT Lesson is a resurrection promise. Ezekiel was carried by the Spirit of God to an old battlefield where Israel's Army had been mauled, the dead unburied, and whose bones dried in the sun. This is the famous valley of dry bones. Ezekiel's vision is a huge contrast to the manicured lawns and orderly grave markers of Arlington or any other National Cemetery. By the Spirit's power, the prophet breathed life into those dead bones, so that they came alive again. This magnificent vision even includes the sounds the bones made as they re-formed into men. For a nation in captivity, whose remembered stories were of defeat and slaughter, this was impossibly good news.

And though we are reaching the culminating days of our annual Lenten pilgrimage, the Gospel for today is of Jesus' most celebrated raising of the dead, that of Lazarus of Bethany, brother of Mary and Martha, all of them Jesus' dear friends. John goes out of his way to underscore the complete finality of Lazarus' death. Jesus, who loved these 3 like family, stayed 2 days longer after the news of Lazarus' death was brought to Him. And when Jesus stood in front of that tomb and commanded the stone to be rolled away, Martha begged Him to reconsider. "He has been dead already four days and the body smells."

This merging of great lessons takes us into Holy Week, whose ending is at another tomb, whose stone will be rolled away and which is as empty as Lazarus' tomb became. Not yet dry bones, but very dead bones. "I am the Resurrection and the Life," Jesus said to Martha. "Those who believe in me, though they die, yet they will live." This is our story, all of it. It is the word faith clings to as the casket is lowered into the cold ground, and it is the root of the faith of which Paul sings, "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ."

But for all of God's mercy and power seething through these texts, words which rooted a faith we confess regularly, "I believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come," for all of that, we tremble at sick beds and gravesides, easily forgetting

that our rebellion against God birthed every grave and their dead dry bones. We are so like the Israel that begat Ezekiel's battlefield, because they refused to listen to God's other prophet who told them to surrender and accept Nebuchadnezzar as God instrument of Judgment. What proud and free people will listen to God at such a moment. The answer is, only those who have put their hands in God's and seek only His will in their lives. Instead Israel launched her armies to get her own way, just as Adam reached out to take the forbidden fruit for what he thought would be a better end. All of it is about going my own way. And we are masters at going our own way. "I wanna do it my way," is not only a song....it is our human story and it ends in the dry bones of death.

In John's story of the raising of Lazarus, the only Gospel with this story, Jesus' action is directly linked to the Jewish leaders decision to kill Him. Jesus does not go His own way in John or in any of the Gospels, He goes down my road, to the ending I have earned. And He chooses that way so that I might be His own, redeemed by His own precious blood and death.

A lot was made of the Jesus' commercials during this year's superbowl. I know nothing of the group that paid for them, but I know that the group focuses on Jesus' life and words, not His death and resurrection. Be that as it may, they put out the news to the whole self focused world that "Jesus gets us;" He does. Beyond our imagining. A self focused world makes war and builds bigger houses. It guzzles beer and wings and bets on touchdown spreads. It races down the path that led Israel to the dry bones defeat, and then does it again and again.

Among the many sad things about that repeating self delusion is that we don't care that Jesus gets us, or goes down that bitter road for us, and for our redemption. More people gathered for superbowl events than will humble themselves at the cross of Jesus on Good Friday because we don't get the incredible news that Jesus gets us.

I'm not sure that John got that by the time that Jesus breathed His last, but he is the only disciple named in the crucifixion when Jesus assigned him the crucial role to care for Mother Mary. But He did get it. And he filled the NT with an unequalled witness to His Lord, declaring the glory and majesty of the Only Son in those unique words that fill our windows:

I AM THE BREAD OF LIIFE

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Grab hold of Lent's summons to submit yourself to the Only Name under heaven by which you will be saved, to grip hold of the only hands that are marked with the suffering scars that breathe life into you, that reach out to you and call, "Come to me you weary ones and I will give you rest." Grab hold of the One Who not only summoned Lazarus out of death to resume his journey alive, but Who offers to all Who humble themselves into His gracious arms a resting place in His glorious and gracious Kingdom.

Listen to the incredible words with which John ends this story. May they fill you with hope:

"THEN CAIPHAS, WHO WAS HIGH PRIEST, ADDRESSED THE LEADERS: 'YOU HAVE NO SENSE AT ALL. DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE TO HAVE ONE MAN DIE (FOR THE PEOPLE) THAN TO HAVE THE WHOLE NATION DESTROYED? (IT WAS NOT ON HIS OWN THAT HE SAID THIS, BUT AS HIGH PRIEST HE COULD PROPHECY THAT JESUS WAS TO DIE FOR THE NATION, AND NOT FOR THE NATION ALONE, BUT TO GATHER TOGETHER EVEN THE DISPERSED CHILDREN OF GOD AND MAKE THEM ONE.)'"

HYMN OF THE DAY (Stand) #533

Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

- 1 Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!**
- 2 Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!**

- 3 Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,
Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!**
- 4 Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!**

APOSTLES' CREED

Hymnal, back cover

**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 † everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

Offerings support the church's mission work – both here and through our many partners. Offerings may be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance or sent to the church through our website or the mail. Fellowship Cards help us welcome new people and track participation. Please fill one out and place it in the offering box following the service.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Kneel)

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, You have raised Your Son and sent us Your Spirit. Sustain us in faith as we face our struggles in this world, that we may be confident of Christ's full attention to our needs. Give strength to our prayers, heal our weaknesses and restore us in times of loss. Turn us to the love and mercy of our Lord Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, breathe Your life into Your Church, that she may stand firm by Your strength and live according to Your Word. Lay Your hand on believers of every era and place, to proclaim Your Word and to bring life to this world, especially to the downtrodden, the faithless, the fearful and the outcast. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You have visited Your creation in Your Son. Grant that our homes would always receive Him, and that husbands and wives and brothers and sisters would rejoice to hear His promises – steadfastly believing them and ever living in their light. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of all, You are the true source of life, and you give this life freely through the power of Your Spirit. Humble and equip all those who are given authority over the lives of others, that they would discharge this duty honorably in accord with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, many of those You love are ill and need Your holy care. Make haste to help them and spare their lives. We pray especially for all those on our prayer list, as well as those whom we lift up in our hearts at this time... Heal them according to your mercies, and on the Last Day call them from their graves and unite them to You and all Your saints. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Father, in Baptism You have given the new birth of water and the Spirit. Make Your children strong in Your Spirit and renew that strength today as we receive your Son's

body and blood, given in his Holy Supper. Teach us to shun the works of the flesh and live in this world with the joyous expectation of the blessed life to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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



THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.**

PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION

p. 194

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly good right and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION (Be seated)

The Communion Assistant will come forward to receive first, then those from the pulpit side – by order of pew, front to back. Communicants will come up the center aisle and return via the side aisle. When all from the pulpit side have communed, the baptismal font side will commune in the same manner. We ask that the wine be consumed away from the tray table. Empty cups should be dropped into the baskets.

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.**

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT (Stand)

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

#922

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

- 1** **Go, My children, with My blessing,
 Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
 You are My own.
 In My love's baptismal river
 I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
 You are My own.**
- 2** **Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
 What I can cure.
 Here you heard My dear Son's story;
 Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.**
- 3** **Go, My children, fed and nourished,
 Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
 Joyful and free.
 Here My Spirit's power filled you;
 Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
 Joyful and free.**
- 4** **I the Lord will bless and keep you
 And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
 And give you peace:
 I the Lord will be your Father,
 Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
 And give you peace.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Be seated)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Setting: Robert Lind

FLOWERS: Flowers are given in loving memory of Nancy Glass and Winnie Doersam who each entered eternal life. Thanks be to God for his blessing of life everlasting.

By Marge Glass

FELLOWSHIP: Board of Education and Stewardship

Those serving:

Sunday, March 26, 8:00 a.m.:

Greeter: Bobb Juenger

Comm. assist: Judy Koucky

Reader: Judy Koucky

10:30 a.m.:

Greeter: Michael Chamberlain

Comm. assist: Jill Hecht

Reader: Lynn Jacquez

Acolyte: Noah Starck

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