

Home worship service during time of isolation and social distancing.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020

Hymn: Glory Be to Jesus, Lutheran Service Book 433, Lutheran Worship 98, The Lutheran Hymnal 158

L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,

C have mercy and hear us.

L Since we have gathered to hear God's Word, let us consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

C God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Introit

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.

**I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**The snares of death encompassed me; the
pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called on the name of the LORD:

Ps. 116:1-4, 8; antiphon: Ps. 116:15 ESV

"O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"

**For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.

Kyrie

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

L 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..

C Amen.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The 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. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will

cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And 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.” ⁷So 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. ⁸And 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. ⁹Then 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.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then 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.’ ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And 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.”

Gradual

Heb. 12:2

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.

Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For 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, ⁴in 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. ⁵For 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. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

Verse of the Day I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live

John 11:25

John 11:17-53

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

²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When 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. ³²Now 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.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I 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.” ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴The 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.”

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

C 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.

Hymn: My Song Is Love Unknown, Lutheran Service Book 430, Lutheran Worship 91, The Lutheran Hymnal *n/a*

Devotional Thoughts

L I cry to You, O Lord;

C in the morning my prayer comes before You.

L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C and uphold me with a willing spirit.

L My mouth is filled with Your praise,

C and with Your glory all the day.

L Every day I will bless You
C and praise Your name forever and ever.

L By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,
C O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

L Bless the Lord, O my soul;
C and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

L He redeems your life from the pit
C and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C let my cry come to You.

L Let us pray.
Spare Your people, O Lord! Preserve us from this and every illness. Give healing and strength to those who are sick, protect those who care for them, and grant us steady minds and calm hearts in the face of fear. Comfort and protect those we hold dear in our hearts and especially those who are far from us. You have borne our infirmities in this human flesh and purchased us with Your own blood. Keep us in this faith and embolden us in love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

C 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.

L Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
C Amen.

Hymn: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less, Lutheran Service Book 575, Lutheran Worship 368, The Lutheran Hymnal 370

Suggested Hymns:

433 Glory Be to Jesus



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!

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430 My Song Is Love Unknown

1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.

Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!

3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!

Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 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!

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575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

Devotional thoughts:

“Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones. Now hear the word of the Lord.” There are many times when we may feel like those bones. All life has been drained from your bones, thoughts and spirit. This may be such a time with dreadful national news, stress on families and finances and new personal challenges everyday just to provide for the necessities of life.

It may be that you are feeling a bit like Martha as she saw her brother fading day after day, wondering to herself, “Where is Jesus?”. Then finally for Martha, the awful day came when Lazarus drew his last breath. Martha together with her sister Mary was faced with the terrible task of preparing their dear brother for burial. He was gently and tenderly placed in the tomb and a stone was rolled to block the entrance. Life would never be the same.

When the next day dawned, Mary and Martha again were weighed down by grief and weeping. We can well imagine them seeking to console each other to no avail. Again and again they were overwhelmed with tears. Four days of sobbing and crying followed one after the other.

Such is life in a sinful and dying world. Even without a worldwide pandemic, suffering and death are daily realities. It is not without merit that long ago someone described our world as a “vale of tears.” We who remain are often left to pick our way through a valley of dry bones where the only moisture to be found is the saltiness of tears on our cheeks.

So it was when Jesus arrived at Bethany. He, too, is inundated by grief as Scripture reports, “He was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.” As you may have done many times, “Jesus wept.”

This short passage of Scripture puts to rest the notion that Christians are required to be happy when a loved one dies. It seems as though Jesus would find it odd to declare funerals, “celebrations.” There is nothing joyous about death. God never intended for people to die. Death is the terrible, irrefutable consequence of sin.

Yes, mourning is real. But the Apostle Paul writes words of comfort so that “you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13). What is the comfort that Paul gives? It is the same comfort given by Jesus in John 11:25, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.” This comfort is the promise of the resurrection from the dead!

Although Lazarus had been in the tomb four days already, Jesus called him back to life to demonstrate His power over death. Grief and sadness may have their day, but they come to an end through Jesus.

Can you imagine the celebration of life when Lazarus stepped out of the grave? Can you imagine the festive spirit at dinner that day?

Indeed, God will ultimately bring to an end our current difficult times. We will experience great celebrations and festivities. Of course, new sorrows will come. Yet through all of this we confidently proclaim, “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4 KJV).

Our earthly troubles and sorrows are but temporary. They will come to an end as Paul writes, “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:56-57).

However, there is a certain irony to the raising of Lazarus. It is this very miracle that causes the chief priests and the Pharisees to redouble their efforts to put Jesus to death. Among other things, it is Lazarus’ life that brings Jesus’ death! Just as it is Jesus’ death on the cross that brings our life!

Mary and Martha may have wondered, “Where is Jesus?” You may wonder the same. When we experience trouble and heartache, it doesn’t mean that Jesus is not here or He doesn’t care. We may never know why God allows this present disastrous time to fall upon us but we do know that He is able to turn curse to blessing, trouble to joy, death to life.

As we seek to show patience as we await the end of this crisis, let us look forward to the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter, now just two short weeks away. During this time I ask that you remember a passage from Joshua that I often assigned as a confirmation verse (maybe it’s yours), “Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest” (Joshua 1:9 KJV).

P.S. For comfort in times of grieving read the great resurrection chapter of the Bible 1 Corinthians 15.

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

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