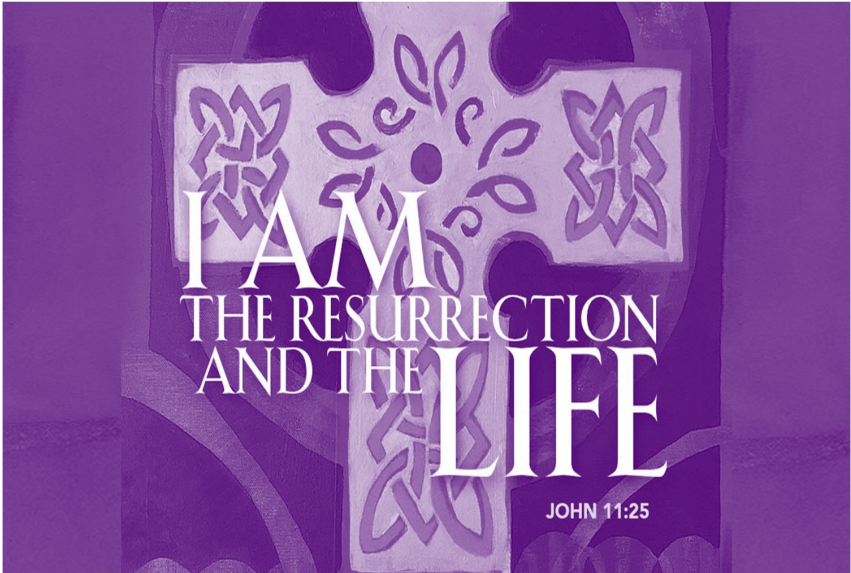


Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 29, 2020



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

408 NORTH SIXTH STREET, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16601

(814) 943-3972 | PASTOR HESS (814) 695-8346

E-MAIL OFFICE@TRINITYALTOONA.COM



VISIT TRINITY ONLINE

TrinityAltoona.com | Facebook.com/TrinityAltoona

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 the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Every MemberMinisters
 Elizabeth Hess..... Pastor
 Ralph GroveOrganist
 Cindy Finnegan Minister of Music

Lectors

.....6:30 PM
 8:15 AM
10:45 AM

Acolytes

.....6:30 PM
 8:15 AM
10:45 AM

Ushers

.....6:30 PM
10:45 AM



Attendance	Wednesday Sunday	
Total donations for the week (includes Wednesday)		\$
Contributions needed every WEEK to meet budget		<u>\$4,987.52</u>
Amount UNDER budget for the week		-

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRE-WORSHIP MEDITATION:

PASTOR: Let us read together Mark 12:28-31 (the Jesus Rule)

ALL: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.

PASTOR: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Merciful God,

C: forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. We were silent when we should have said something. We acted when we knew better. We were still when we know we should have moved. For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your 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.

C: Amen

*ENTRANCE HYMN

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray....

C: 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

FIRST LESSON

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."

L: The reading from 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."

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

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,

in order that you may be feared. R

I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

For the LORD shall redeem Israel

from all their sins. R

SECOND LESSON 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.

L: The reading from 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.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

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.

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. 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

FOR THE CHILDREN

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY #**

***APOSTLE'S CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

***PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Each of you shall bring such a gift as he can in proportion to the blessing which the Lord your God has given you" Deuteronomy 16:17

OFFERING *(Please sign and pass the pew register)*

THE PRAYERS

A: Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

A: Lord in your mercy

C: **hear our prayers**

The prayers conclude:

P: Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace

C: 
A - men

*CLOSING HYMN

*DISMISSAL

P: Mark 12:28-31

C: **Love God, Love others.**

*POSTLUDE

*Congregation Stands



PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS

Jim Aungst
Ted Baird
Tyler Bennett
Bob Brubaker
Tina Chestney
Church HealthTeam
Church Council
Don Corl
Gary Crownover
Sondra Deffibaugh

Jane Eamigh
Jim Gosnell
Debbie Gracey
Paul Hamilton
Ron Heiss
Kristina Henderson
Dave Hoover
Martha Jones
Janice Knee
Jessica McGraw

Bill McLaughlin
Cindy Murphy
Ken B. Myers
Ray Nycum
Jaden Rhode
Shannon Family
Bill Thompson Jr.
Ronald Settle
Jasmine Wilkins

SHUT IN MEMBERS

Chris Burda
Ron Green
Ken Kumpf
Marie Laich
Dawn Mangus
Bob Nearhoof
Arlene Roessing
Robert Streightiff

ARMED FORCES

Sarah Brown
Jason Buck
Kyle Eberhart
Nathan Frank
Justin Patz
Jason Smith
Eric Sweet



FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Janet & Charlie Aungst
Scott Aungst
Sandy Badorrec
Deb Bender
Frank Bennett
Kris Bennett
Pat Burk
Dorothy Bush
John Bush
Tracee Cole
Scott Corl
Sandy Daddorek
Jim Deffibaugh
Jordan DeFrancisco
Audrey Deiluliis
Miles Dunkelbarger
Nancy & Bill Filler
Elisie Fogel
Haley Gehret
Dawn George
Amanda Gregg & Daughters
Ann Hanczaryk
Charles W. Harpster
Don Haslem

Danielle Hatfield
Dave Hogan
Jack Hoyne
Judy Johnson
Tom Klevan
Pastor John Klingeman
Kaylee Kruse
Lucya Kunkel
Jean Lane
Janelle Lehr
Viljo Lind Family
Janet Luciano
Linda Mardula
Sharon Mayers
Barb McConnell
Bob McConnell
Eddie McGee
McGilvery Family
Sharon McKeehan
Janelle Messner
Denny Miller
Harry Miller, Sr
Moore Family
Morning Family

Debbie Muccitelli
Rudy Muccitelli
Wyatt Nite
Bob Noel
David Orr
Zach Porta
Abby Remendowski
Katie Riggleman
Roub Family
Carl Ruckinger
Michael Ruckinger
Melvin Settle
C. Richard Shaffer
Harper Sigrist
Sharon Sitts
Denny Sullivan
George Sultage Sr
Robert Thomas Family
Paul Wallis
Mary Walter
James Wilt
Steve Wood

CAN THESE BONES LIVE?

Before it is anything else, today’s gospel is an up-close, deeply personal story of grief. Even the movements seem familiar: Jesus is on the way, then present to each sister. At last, he stands outside the tomb of his friend who has died, and whom the community mourns.

In today’s first reading, we are swept up with Ezekiel and deposited into a wilderness valley full of dry, dead bones. In the valley, God asks Ezekiel, “Mortal, can these bones live?” (Ezek. 37:3). Of Lazarus in our gospel reading for today, we, like Ezekiel, might also respond: “O Lord GOD, you know.” How can dry bones come to life? And how could a dead man ever possibly live again? Indeed, we might wonder if it will be enough, ever *could* be enough, that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25). At the same time, we easily understand and echo Martha and Mary, who were both accusing angrily and confessing hopefully when they said, “Lord, if you had been here . . .” (John 11:21, 32).

As John tells it, Lazarus has been in the tomb four days by the time Jesus arrives. By then the whole village is awash in grief. When Jesus weeps too, they are amazed at his loving devotion: here is a strong sign of connection, a visible reminder that Jesus is truly present *among* human community, not *above* it. In the end, Jesus does what we could never imagine was even a remote possibility. He calls to the one entombed; he summons life, like the Spirit blowing over the valley in Ezekiel. God is up to something! Here, a sign of signs: God is making all things new.

New life is emerging from the tombs of our world and from the shadowed corners of our hearts. May Jesus’ resurrecting power be felt deep in our own bones!



