



## **The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**March 29, 2020**

**10:00am am**

## **On-line Worship Service**

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Royal Oak**

## PRELUDE

**Lamb of God**, Twila Pairs, arr. Lloyd Larson  
*Steven McGhee, Music Director, Piano*

*At the ringing of the bell, the worship service begins*

## THE WORD OF GOD

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### LENTEN ACCLAMATION

*Also found in BCP, pg. 355*

*Presider* †Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;  
*People* **God's mercy endures for ever.**

### KYRIE

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Also found in BCP, pg. 219*

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**Brief Commentary from Beth T** - *This is one of the greatest stories in all of scripture about hope in the midst of destruction. The prophet Ezekiel and all the people are in exile, far from their homes, their Temple and their way of life. They feel abandoned, lost and alone. Their military strength has been crushed. Ezekiel has a vision where he is lifted up and transported to a valley of dry bones. All he sees is ruin. And God shows and tells Ezekiel, through the rattling of the bones and the sinews and skin that come over them in his vision, that the people will live and thrive again.*

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, "Prophecy 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, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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 prophecy, 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.

*Lector*        The word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 130**

**1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**

- 2 If you, GOD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
 O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
 therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for God; \*  
 in God's word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
 more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
 more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
 for with GOD there is mercy;
- 7 With God there is plenteous redemption, \*  
 and God shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

**Planxty Irwin**, Turlogh O'Carolan

*Cheri Whalen, Violin*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 11:1-45**

*Deacon* †The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

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 Judeans 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 Mary 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 Judeans 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 Judeans 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 Judeans 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.”

*Deacon*      The Gospel of Christ.

*People*      **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**HOMILY**

**The Rev. Beth Taylor**

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

Amazing Grace, Traditional

*Brynn Ward, piano and voice*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Deacon* God gives flesh to the dry bones of the dead. Let us earnestly beseech God to breathe on all creatures and call them out of the tomb.

*Leader*

We pray for the Church; for all bishops, priests, deacons, and people in their many ministries. Help us to remember that we are the Church, wherever we are. God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

O God, in the midst of turmoil throughout the world, we seek your guidance and your light. We pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 virus, those who are vulnerable, and those at great risk. We pray for world leaders, presidents and heads of state, governors, mayors, county and civic leaders. Guide the hearts of your servants and all leaders to do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth. God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who are sick and recovering

For those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home

For those who are separated from loved ones

For those who are feeling alone and isolated

God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who are so very tired

For those who are struggling to find friends, food, and comfort

For the elderly, the frail, the homebound

For those who are afraid

God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

For researchers and scientists working tirelessly to curb the spread of the virus  
For doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and all medical professionals  
For first responders and public safety professionals, grocery workers, and  
essential service employees

For all those who cannot work from home

God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who have lost work in this time

For those who own and operate businesses and non-profits who will not  
survive closures

God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

For children and youth who miss the structure and rhythm of life

For those missing sports seasons, proms, class trips, and other important  
milestones

For parents who have become teachers in the absence of school in addition to  
their regular responsibilities and routines

God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who have had to postpone or cancel weddings, graduations,  
confirmations, baptisms, and other momentous occasions

For those without access to technology or other means to stay connected to  
friends and family

God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to God †all who have died; especially for those whom we now  
name \_\_\_\_\_; and for those who have died and are known to God  
alone. May they all rest in eternal peace. God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for signs of new life

For deepened relationships and resources of strength we did not know we had

In thanksgiving for the birth of baby Kennedy  
In thanksgiving for the Phone Tree Ministry, for Zoom and the other ways in  
which we stay connected. God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

Please add your own intercessions and thanksgivings either silently or aloud  
\_\_\_\_\_. God of love –

**Hear our prayer.**

*Presider* Blessed are you, God of the living and the dead, who called  
your Son from the grave. Receive the prayers we offer this day  
for those who seek new life in Jesus Christ and for all those in  
need in every place. We ask these things in the name of Christ  
who taught us to pray:

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. *Amen.***

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Deacon* Come to us, Lord  
in our hour of need.  
Forgive us, Lord  
for your mercy is great.

*Presider* Lord Jesus, you free us from our fears  
and give us new life.  
For the sake of your love,  
†forgive us all our sins, so that we may walk faithfully  
in your eternal light. ***Amen.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

*Presider* Life is short.  
We do not have much time to gladden the hearts  
of those who walk this way with us.  
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.  
And may the blessing of the Loving God,  
† the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless and keep you this day, and remain with you forever.  
***Amen.***

### DISMISSAL

*Also in BCP, page 366*

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*If you have **Pastoral Care Needs** or **Church Business questions**, please call **248-721-4325***

*We encourage you to **keep current on your pledges** or to make contributions to St. John's so that we can continue our ministries, support our staff, and care for the building during the suspension of in-person services and meetings.*

### Giving to St. John's

***Mail pledges/contributions*** - St. John's Episcopal Church 26998 Woodward Ave,  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

***Give online*** – make one-time or recurring donations with a credit card or checking account by going directly to our website: <https://www.stjohnsroyaloak.org/giving>

***Text*** - Text "StJohnsRoyalOak" to 73256 and follow the donation link to select the giving opportunity of your choice

***Bank*** – Set up a personal bill pay through your bank to be issue to St. John's Episcopal Church in Royal Oak, MI

Thank you!

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**Everyone Belongs!**