

*Introduction to the day: 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.*

## **GATHERING**

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

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### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able and to face the baptismal font.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.  
Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

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.**

*Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.*

**GATHERING SONG** *What Wondrous Love Is This* (ELW 666)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE** (ELW p. 138)

Music and Lyrics on following page

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Jeff Dodge)

*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 Ezekiel.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>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."

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy 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." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>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.' <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>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.**

## PSALM: Psalm 130 (Jeff Dodge)

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, hear my voice!**

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

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>**Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup>**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;  
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup>**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

## **SECOND READING:** Romans 8:6-11 (Jeff Dodge)

*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 Romans.*

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>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.**

## **KIDS' MESSAGE** (Pr. Allen Dunn)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel*

## **GOSPEL:** John 11:1-45 (Various Speakers as "Readers' Theatre")

*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.**

**Narrator:** 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. 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.

**Sisters:** "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

**Narrator:** But when Jesus heard it, he said.

**Jesus:** "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."

**Narrator:** 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.

**Jesus:** "Let us go to Judea again."

**The disciples:** "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

**Jesus:** "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."

**Narrator:** After saying this, he told them,

**Jesus:** “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”

**The disciples:** “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”

**Narrator:** Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly.

**Jesus:** “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

**Narrator:** Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples,

**Thomas:** “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

**Narrator:** 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:** “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:** “Your brother will rise again.”

**Martha:** “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

**Jesus:** “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?”

**Martha:** “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

**Narrator:** When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately.

**Martha:** “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”

**Narrator:** 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,

**Mary:** “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

**Narrator:** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

**Jesus:** “Where have you laid him?”

**Jewish Mourners:** “Lord, come and see.”

**Narrator:** Jesus began to weep.

**Jewish Mourners:** “See how he loved him!”

**Jewish Mourners:** “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

**Narrator:** Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

**Jesus:** “Take away the stone.”

**Martha:** “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”

**Jesus:** “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

**Narrator:** So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said,

**Jesus:** “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.”

**Narrator:** When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, **Jesus:** “Lazarus, come out!”

**Narrator:** The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.

**Jesus:** “Unbind him and let him go.”

**Narrator:** 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.**

*Please be seated*

## **SERMON** (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY** *Beautiful Things* (ACS 925)

Music and Lyrics on following page





1 All this pain; I won - der if I'll  
 2 All this earth; . . . could all that is  
 3 All a - round, . . . hope is spring - ing



ev - er find my way. I won - der if my  
 lost ev - er be found? . . . Could a gar - den  
 up from this old ground. . . . Out of cha - os,



life could real - ly change at all.  
 come up from this ground at all?  
 life is be - ing found in you.

*Refrain*



You make beau-ti-ful things, you make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust.



You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau-ti -



ful things out of us.

**CREED**

Let us join with Christians throughout the world in this Lenten Season and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. 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.**

*Please be seated*



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Jeff Dodge)

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*(Prayer requests provided by congregation to be added here by Reader)*

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

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

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## **OFFERING**

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God  
and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of  
the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.  
Thank you so much for your continued support.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings as we present them  
in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus,  
the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,  
our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.  
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, 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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.  
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the language of your heart.

**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.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.  
Please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

## **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.**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.*

## **SENDING**

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

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## **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 SONG

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (ELW 536)



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
- 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
- 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un-fail - ing arms a - round you;

### *Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel,  
the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God and we will.**