

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING PRAYER

P: O God, Your days are without end, and Your mercies cannot be numbered. Today in our Worship make us mindful of the shortness and uncertainty of life. And remind us that what counts in life is that You have the final say over lives. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen

### OPENING HYMN "Red Book" 11

### Because He Lives

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus  
He came to love, heal, and forgive.  
He lived and died to buy my pardon;  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives

Refrain  
Because He lives I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives all fear is gone,  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a new born baby  
And feel the pride and joy He gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Refrain  
Because He lives I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives all fear is gone,  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain.  
And then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Refrain  
Because He lives I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives all fear is gone,  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

## OPENING UP TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

P: In John 11 Jesus says to a man who had died and been laying in tomb, "Rise and come out!" The man, named Lazarus, rose and came out as Jesus commanded. Too often we lack the faith to believe in Jesus' power over all things, including death. During this moment of silence, we reflect upon these shortcomings of our faith.

*Silence for reflection*

P: We confess,

**C: Lord, we confess our lack of faith. We see a glimpse of what we should be and know that we fall short of the goal. We desire faith that is solid and unchanging, yet we crumble under trials and temptations. We want to be strong, but know our weakness. Accept us as we are, unworthy for the task, yet gifted for your purpose. Give us the gift of faith.**

P: Our God is a great God and knows our needs for all areas of our life. God knows our weakness and our unbelieving hearts, yet loves us enough to die on a cross and provide forgiveness of our sin. Now the focus is not on the faith that we can muster, but on the great gifts that our Lord gives daily as we live in trust. God has given us the gift of faith, faith for the moment, faith for every trial, faith for every temptation, faith for every difficult situation. Praise God for this inexpressible gift of faith.

**C: Amen**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us Pray.....Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

### Old Testament: Ezekiel 37:1-14

*The prophet of the Lord brings life to dead bones with a Word from the Lord*

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; 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." 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 indeed 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."

### **Epistle: Romans 8:1-11**

*Life is given when the Spirit of Christ is in us*

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. For 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.

### **CHOIR ANTHEM      That Old Rugged Cross      By Don Besig & Nancy Price**

### **GOSPEL: John 11: 17-27, 38-53**

*Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead much to the astonishment of the people*

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."

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

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### SERMON HYMN "Green Book" 108

#### All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain:

All glory, laud and honor to you, redeemer, king  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel and David's royal son,  
Now in the Lord's name coming, Our King and Blessed One.

The company of angels are praising you on high;  
Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply.

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went.  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

To you, before your Passion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

#### SERMON

#### "Getting in the last word"

Pastor Lucke

## APOSTLE'S CREED

**C: 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 was 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 Christian Church,**

**The communion of saints,**

**The forgiveness of sins,**

**The resurrection of the body,**

**And the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING** (We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

## **OFFERTORY**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** (After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken: P: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer)

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#### **“Green Book” 328**

#### **All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!**

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, you martyrs of our God, Who from his altar call;  
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown him Lord of all.  
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown him Lord of all.

O seed of Israel’s chosen race Now ransomed from the fall,  
Hail him who saves you by his grace And crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace And crown him Lord of all.

Hail him, you heirs of David’s line, Whom David Lord did call--  
The God incarnate, man divine—And crown him Lord of all.  
The God incarnate, man divine—And crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget The wormwood and the gall  
Go, spread your trophies at his feet And crown him Lord of all.  
Go, spread your trophies at his feet And crown him Lord of all.

Let ev’ry kindred, en’ry tribe On this terrestrial ball  
To him all majesty ascribe And crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe And crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall!  
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.  
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.

#### **“Red Book” 14**

#### **Bind Us Together**

(Refrain)

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken,  
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together  
Bind us together with love.

(Verse)

There is only one God.  
There is only one King.  
There is only one body.  
That is why I sing.  
(repeat refrain above)

**PRAYER**

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**BENEDICTION**

**DISMISSAL**