



*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our
Savior Jesus Christ.”*

2 Peter 3:18

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service today we gather before our heavenly Father to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. May he bless our worship and study today!

For Your Convenience

- Restrooms are available down the hallway on the right.
- If you would like a hearing device to assist you for worship, please speak with one of the ushers.
- The ushers are at the entrance of the sanctuary to answer any other questions you might have.

Today's Focus

Jesus will raise us from death to life. The crown jewel of the coming kingdom is the resurrection of the dead. One day, Jesus will defeat the last enemy (1 Corinthians 15:27) and life will reign again in our new Eden with God. On our Lenten walk to Calvary, the Church sees the Savior come face to face with death and defeat it completely. During our Lenten walk, the Prayer of the Day asks God to help us remember that Jesus, who is resurrection and life, has made us heirs of eternal life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OPENING HYMN

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices
Christian Worship Hymn 194:1-3

Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be, What great things God has done for me.

Dear Father, endless praise I render For soul and body, nobly joined;
I praise you, Guardian kind and tender, For all the daily joys I find
So richly spread on ev'ry side And freely for my use supplied.

I praise you, Savior, whose compassion Has brought you down to ransom me.
Your pitying heart sought my salvation; You bore the cross triumphantly,
Brought me from bondage full release, Made me your own, and gave me peace.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr.; tr. composite.

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

L: Jesus has shown us his great love by sacrificing himself on Calvary. His blood was shed to offer us forgiveness for all of our sins. Let us join to confess our sins and lay them at the foot of the cross.

C: Holy Savior, I lay my sins at the foot of your cross. I am sorry for the suffering that they have caused for you, but humbly accept your invitation to have my sins taken away by your death on the cross. Forgive me for all that I have done wrong.

ABSOLUTION OF SINS

L: God has promised that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us and purify us from all unrighteousness. As a called servant of the Lord, I assure you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son †, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray...

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and

breathe into these slain, that they may live.”¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’” (NIV 1984)

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 116

Christian Worship page 107

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

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

The LORD is gracious and righteous; when I was in great need, he saved me.

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

How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:11-19

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

¹² Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Continued on next page

¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. (NIV 1984)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Mark 10:45

L: The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

GOSPEL

Matthew 27:27-69

Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!”

In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus’ resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

“Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. (NIV 1984)

CONFESSION OF FAITH ¹

I believe that God created me and all that exists, that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all dangers, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him

This is most certainly true.

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Praise to God Who Reigns Above
Christian Worship Hymn 236

All praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of wonders, pow'r, and love, The God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul he fills, The God who ev'ry sorrow stills—
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, oh, hear my calling!
For death he gave me life indeed And kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be; Oh, thank him, thank our God with me—
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord will not forsake his flock, His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand He leads his own, his chosen band—
To God all praise and glory!

¹Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed.

All who confess Christ's holy name, To God give praise and glory!
All who the Father's pow'r proclaim, To God give praise and glory!
All idols under foot be trod; The Lord is God! The Lord is God!
To God all praise and glory!

Then come before his presence now And banish fear and sadness;
To your Redeemer pay your vow And sing with joy and gladness.
Though great distress my soul befell, The Lord my God did all things well—
To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann J. Schütz, 1640–90, abr.; tr. composite.

SERMON

“Believe and Live”

John 11:17-27, 38-45

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven
Christian Worship Hymn 388

Redeemed, restored, forgiven Through Jesus' precious blood,
Heirs of his home in heaven—Oh, praise our pard'ning God!
Praise him in tuneful measures Who gave his Son to die;
Praise him whose sev'nfold treasures Enrich and sanctify.

Once on the dreary mountain We wandered far and wide,
Far from the cleansing fountain, Far from the pierced side.
But Jesus sought and found us; Our many sins he bore.
With cords of love he bound us To him forevermore.

Dear Master, yours the glory Of each recovered soul.
Ah, who can tell the story Of love that made us whole?
Not ours, not ours the merit; To you alone the praise!
Give us a thankful spirit To serve you all our days.

Now keep us, holy Savior, In your true love and fear,
And grant us by your favor The grace to persevere
Till, in your new creation, Our earthly troubles o'er,
Heirs of your free salvation, We praise you evermore.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

L: Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear our prayers and praises as we rejoice in our salvation. We bow before your heavenly throne with joy in our hearts because we know that we are always in your care, now and in eternity. Though the days of our lives are often filled with the effects of sin, we know that in your eyes we stand washed in the blood of Jesus. We praise you for the salvation that is ours by your grace. Guard and keep us as we live here on earth. Protect us from sickness and disease, from harm and danger. Be with people everywhere and let your love and mercy be upon them. Finally, take us to yourself in heaven according to your will. In Jesus we pray...

C: Amen.

BLESSING

L: The God of heaven and earth bless you and keep you.
The Savior of the world bring you his peace †.
The Holy Spirit comfort and preserve you.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

God of Mercy, God of Grace
Christian Worship Hymn 249

God of mercy, God of grace, Show the brightness of your face.
Shine upon us, Savior, shine; Fill your Church with light divine,
And your saving health extend To the earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise you, Lord! Be by all that live adored.
Let the nations shout and sing Glory to their Savior King,
At your feet their tribute pay, And your holy will obey.

Let the people praise you, Lord, Then enjoy your rich reward!
God to us his blessing give, We to God devoted live,
All below and all above One in joy and light and love.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.