

April 6, 2014
Fifth Sunday of Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

Sunday, April 6, 2014

Fifth Sunday of Lent-Communion-Confirmation

INTRODUCTION

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 new sisters and brothers at the baptismal font, as we renew our baptismal promises

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Shall We Gather at the River”

#423 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face that we may live.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hear for yourselves:

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all. God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world.

Amen.

RE-AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

TOM PETERSEN AND ZACH SIMONSON

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.

FIRST READING:

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."

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."

PSALM

Psalm 130

Refrain: 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 you¹ 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

GOSPEL:

John 11: 1-45

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, "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. ⁵For

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.

SERMON HYMN: “Children of the Heavenly Father” #781 ELW

SERMON: **Can These Bones Live Again?**

OFFERTORY HYMN “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” #773 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Pour out your Spirit upon your church so that your people speak words of life to dry bones. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring newness of life to all of creation: to animals, plants, lands, and sea, that they be refreshed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Unbind all nations, peoples, and tribes from violence and war. Breathe the breath of new life and reconciliation where there is conflict (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Stir up your healing power to redeem from illness all those who wait upon you (*especially*), that they know your steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire this congregation to honor and lift up the gifts of all artists, musicians, needle workers, painters, potters, and sculptors, that your glory be revealed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for all the saints who have been lifted up to live with you in light eternal (*especially the artists Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S 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 into hell. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son, awakened by the breathing of your Spirit. Send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, which is revealed to all the world in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN:

“What a Fellowship”

#774 ELW

Welcome Visitors-we're glad you are here with us!

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Music: Marlys Beaver

Greeters: Bruce Gingerich & Carol Schlottman

Ushers: Jan Phillip, Diane Sandberg

Lector: Sandy Pullen

Coffee: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Thank you for volunteering!

Response to God's Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: (03/30/2014) 9:00 am - 104 (04/02/2014) 6:30 pm-39

Month of March

Monthly amount needed

General Offering: \$ **13,904** **\$15,340**

Building Fund: \$ **1,250** **\$2,500**

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda April 6 thru April 13, 2014

Sunday 04/06 9:00 am Worship/Communion/Confirmation

Monday 04/07 7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday 04/08 8-11am Pastor's Text Study

9:00 am Quilter's

Wednesday 04/09 8:30 am Bible Study

9:30 am Hardanger

11:00 am Bible Study

5:30 pm Pot Luck

6:30 pm Lenten Service

Thursday 04/10 8:00 pm R.O.M.E.O.S

1:00 pm Fun Timers

Friday 04/11 10:00 am Bone Builders

Saturday 04/12 9:30 am Choir

1:00 pm Church Council

Sunday 04/13 9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Strategic Planning Meets

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign up for Easter lilies with Elsa Carlson in the fellowship hall today.

The WELCA meeting will be moved from April 16th to April 23rd 9:30 am.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

April 13th Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m.

April 17th Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. Communion/The Last Supper

April 18th Good Friday 9:00 a.m. Service of the Nails

April 20th Easter Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Communion both Services.