Fifth Sunday in Lent

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.
Service of Word and Prayer

Boldface type indicates the congregation’s responses.
At the sign of the cross (✠), you are invited to make that same sign upon yourself in remembrance of your baptism.

* GATHERING *

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Psalm 130

Vocal ensemble

Paul Manz

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice: let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope; my soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is redemption, and He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart.
Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for self-examination.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.
We fail in love, neglect justice,
and ignore your truth.
Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.
Create in us clean hearts
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.
Hear the good news: Almighty God has mercy on us,
for gives us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life;
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Gathering Hymn No. 666

What Wondrous Love Is This
Sing in a rousing fashion.

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 eleison ("Lord, have mercy.")

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Prayer

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

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.”

1The hand of the LORD came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2The LORD led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3The LORD said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” 4Then the LORD said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6I 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.”

7So 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. 8I 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. 9Then the LORD 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.” 10I prophesied as the LORD commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
Then the LORD 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130

All sing.

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 you may be feared.

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 plentiful redemption.

For the Lord shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.
Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

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.

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

9But 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 Christ. 10But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through this Spirit dwelling in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

All sing the acclamation. The cantor sings the verse. All repeat the acclamation.

Verse: I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will never die.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

1Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” 4But 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.” 5Accordingly, 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.

7Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” 8The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Judeans were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” 9Jesus 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. 10But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” 11After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” 12The 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. For 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 the other 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 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 whatever you ask of 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. 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 Jesus 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 Judeans 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.

Sermon

Vicar Debbie Pinnegar

A brief silence is kept for reflection.
No. 621  

Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense

JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT

Hymn of the Day No. 621

stanza 1-cantor  2-all  3-cantor  4, 5, 6-all

1  Jesus lives, my sure defense and my everlasting Savior!

2  Jesus, my redeemer, lives; I too unto life shall wake.

3  No, too closely am I bound unto him by hope forever;

4  I am flesh and must return unto dust, whence I am taken.

knowing this, my confidence rests in hope and will not waver,

Bright the hope this promise gives; shall my courage, then, be shaken?

faith’s strong hand the rock has found, grasped it, and will leave it never;

But these eyes my Lord will know when from death I shall awake,

though the night of death be fraught still with many an anxious thought.

Shall I fear then? Can the head rise and leave his members dead?

even death now cannot part from its Lord the trusting heart.

with my Savior to abide in his glory, at his side.

5  Then take comfort and rejoice, for his people Christ will cherish.

Fear not, you will hear his voice; dying, you will never perish;

for the very grave is stirred when the trumpet’s blast is heard.

6  Here on earth, then, let your hearts rise from longings vain and hollow.

Seek what Christ your Lord imparts while you in his footsteps follow.

As you now still wait to rise, set your hearts beyond the skies!

5  Then take comfort and rejoice, for his people Christ will cherish.

Fear not, you will hear his voice; dying, you will never perish;

for the very grave is stirred when the trumpet’s blast is heard.

6  Here on earth, then, let your hearts rise from longings vain and hollow.

Seek what Christ your Lord imparts while you in his footsteps follow.

As you now still wait to rise, set your hearts beyond the skies!
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.

The Prayers

Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer
for the church, the world, and the needs of all.

A brief silence is kept. Each petition ends: Hear us, O God. We respond: Your mercy is great.
The collect ends our prayers.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

We share the peace of Christ with one another.
Offertory Hymn No. 811

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace,

that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.

Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,

is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!

* SENDING *

Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.
Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us:
renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.
Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Benediction
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.
Sending Hymn No. 758

You Are the Way

DUNDEE

1 You are the way; to you a-lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a-lone true wisdom can impart;
3 You are the life; the rend-ing tomb pro-claims your con-qu’ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,

all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on-ly can in-form the mind and pu-ri fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e-ter-nal flow.

*Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

Paul Manz

+ + +

Acknowledgements...

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Looking Ahead… the Scripture texts for next Sunday, Palm Sunday, are Zechariah 9:9-10 and Matthew 21:1-11. We encourage you to read and pray these passages in preparation for our worship together.

Your tithes and offerings are important to our ministry. On-line donation options are available at holytrinityakron.org/donate or by contacting Financial Secretary Jim Minisall at jminisall@holytrinityakron.org. Or simply mail your offerings to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 N. Prospect Street, Akron, Ohio 44304. Thank you for your generous and regular support.

Need information on an activity? Would you like to get more involved? Please contact:

...Ministry Team Leaders...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINISTRY TEAM</th>
<th>TEAM LEADER(S)</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Bob Nagle</td>
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<td>Welcome</td>
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...Our Staff...

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Maintenance Coordinator         Bruce Mansour    bmansour@holytrinityakron.org
Sextons                         Vincent Simmons and Eddie Hill
### Activity Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acolyte Coordinator</td>
<td>Please pray as we search for a new coordinator.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar Guild</td>
<td>Sophia Morton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archives</td>
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<td>Communion Assistants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meditation Memorial Garden</td>
<td>Judy Samuelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Nurse Ministry</td>
<td>Sally Richenbacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer Chain</td>
<td>Sally Richenbacher, Wanda Clark</td>
<td>330-650-1175, 330-836-4096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readers</td>
<td>Nancy Riemenschneider</td>
<td>330-239-1086</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Bernard’s Hot Meals</td>
<td>Michael Wilson</td>
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<td>Stewardship</td>
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<td>Ushers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Bible Study</td>
<td>Velma Pomrenke</td>
<td>330-864-6866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**There are no on-site activities this week, but you can…**

**…join us for Morning Devotions:** Monday through Friday at 8:00am, on our Facebook page.

**…join us for our mid-week study:** Wednesday at 1:30pm, via Zoom meetings. This week's topic is “A Lutheran Welcome to the Bible.” Contact Vicar Debbie for the link to the on-line meeting.

**…join us for Sunday worship:** next Sunday, April 5, streamed on Facebook Live at 9:30am.

**…watch out for your neighbors in need:** contact Marshall Thomas (fatherambrosepress@gmail.com) if you'd like to help deliver supplies to those who can’t safely get to the stores.

**…take good care of yourself.** Make this a Sabbath time of rest, reflection, and reconnection to God and your loved ones.