



WELCOME IN THE NAME OF THE CRUCIFIED AND RISEN JESUS CHRIST!

Please use and share the following resources so that together we may worship God the Father who created us, God the Son who saved us, and God the Holy Spirit who called us to faith and who continues to call us to love God and neighbor.

Sunday, March 29, 2020, Fifth Sunday in Lent

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.**

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

**Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.

"I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of ✙ Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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

¹The 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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy 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 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." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then 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.' ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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

¹Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, | hear my voice!**

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

³If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O LORD, | who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you | is forgiveness,**

in order that you | may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;

in your word | is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,
more than those who keep watch | for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall | redeem Israel**

from | all their sins.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

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, ⁶after 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 Jews 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." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When 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." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The 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. ³²When 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." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come

out!”⁴⁴The 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.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Hymn of the Day

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Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
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Apostles Creed

We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

**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.

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.**

Blessing

Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God,
speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
✠ bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace.
Amen.

MINISTRY NEWS

PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

First Lesson, Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm, Psalm 31:9-16

Second Lesson, Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel, Matthew 26:14--27:66

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Charles Gurski, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Joel Koch, Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Cheryl Moyer, Kevin Seibert, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Jeff Wolesschok, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Gemma Geary, Seth Ney, Nathan Resch, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Denny Starr, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Barry West, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Ron Gill, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Nancy Cooper, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Drenzo, Bill Gordon, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Michelle Moon, Anna Heffner, Molly Jones, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Kay LeBoeuf

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

DID YOU KNOW? Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has written a pastoral letter to the ELCA concerning the coronavirus. In her letter she draws on the pastoral wisdom of Martin Luther who in a pre-scientific age (Luther thought that the sun orbited around the earth, and that Christopher Columbus was a fool), had remarkable insight. Here is a portion of her letter:

“In 1527 the plague returned to Wittenberg, Germany. Two hundred years earlier the plague had swept across Europe killing up to 40% of the population. Understandably, people were anxious and wondered what a safe and faithful response might be. In answer to this, Martin Luther wrote “Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague.” In it, he emphasized the duty to care for the neighbor, the responsibility of government to protect and provide services to its citizens, a caution about recklessness, and the importance of science, medicine and common sense.

To provide care for the neighbor, Luther recommended that pastors, those in public office, doctors and public servants should remain in the city. Luther himself remained in Wittenberg to care for his people. He recommended that public hospitals be built to accommodate those with the plague. He condemned those who took unnecessary risks that put themselves and others in

danger of contagion. Luther also encouraged the use of reason and medicine, writing, “God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body. ... Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence” (“Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague,” 1527).

We are living in the time of the coronavirus. We are also living in the time of social media and constant, relentless news coverage. Many of our people have the same concerns as those in Luther’s day. Many of our people are anxious. Luther’s counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. Respect the disease. Do not take unnecessary risks. Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the neighbor. Make use of medical aid. Care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.”

Ministry during a Viral Time: Gathering in Christ – Sent to Serve our Neighbors

As the coronavirus spreads, and both viral rumors and more thoughtful understandings emerge, it is important for us as a community of faith to continue ministry, even if the forms and practices need to change as a matter of loving one another in the midst of God's creation.

There are two viruses. The first is the viral spread of unfounded, fake, or even toxic rumors – as a contemporary quip says, “denial is not just a river in Egypt.” The second is the coronavirus itself. The current understanding is that coronavirus spreads not through the air like measles, but through droplets in the air (i.e. coughing, sneezing, etc.) or by resting on surfaces (perhaps 2-48 hours or so).

The church council and staff of Jerusalem Lutheran have developed these guidelines, which may be changed as needed, to guide our ministry through appropriate precautions and recommended hygienic practices. For these guidelines we have drawn on the resources of governmental agencies such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (especially Lutheran Disaster Response), and the Christian faith and experience. A Coronavirus Task Force has been established, including Deb Reed (council president), Jane Mahoney (a retired nurse with experience with infectious disease), Donald Boyer (former school superintendent and member of Child Care Committee) and Pastor Rowe. Please don't hesitate to talk with us if you have any questions or suggestions.

Precautions and Our Calling:

- Beginning March 13, we are suspending worship gatherings, coffee hours, Lenten soup meals, and other meals and refreshments. We look forward to worshipping again together, as well as celebratory food and fellowship event when the risk is over.
- Pastoral care visits have been suspended by hospitals. Shut-in communion visits are being deferred to protect everyone. Please call Pastor Rowe at 570-933-551 for pastoral conversation.
- In our daily lives, we will EITHER wash hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (Why not sing a hymn or use this as an opportunity to pray?), OR use hand sanitizer. When washing or

sanitizing, let us make sure we get our thumbs and between our fingers. Finally we will try to sneeze into our elbows.

- We will practice social distancing, and disinfect common surfaces.
- Should there be an occasion during this time of isolation to come to Jerusalem's building, the doors inside the church should be left open whenever possible to reduce the number of times that we touch door handles.
- Meeting are being held via Facebook, email, conference call, and video conferencing (see Zoom.us).
- When we do not feel well, we will stay home.
- We will mail in our offering and continue to give regularly during this time of disruption, even if some have to reduce their giving due to the loss of jobs.
- A Sunday service including prayers, scripture, and sermon is now being posted online for each Sunday.
- Devotions are being offered once or twice a week through the Faith and Families Facebook group, please email Tanya for more information or to join this group at faithandfamilies@jerusalemlutheran.com
- God calls us to be a people of intercessory prayer, especially remembering the sick, health workers, and essential jobs, as well as the church staff and leaders, including its child care providers.
- THE LAST WORD – Jesus Christ is the source and fount of hope, and he calls us to love and serve our neighbors. The coronavirus will challenge us to seek ways to share hope, witness, and service.

Please regularly check Facebook, www.jerusalemlutheran.com, bulletins and newsletters for more information, as both the coronavirus and our ministry response unfolds in the days ahead. Updates will be announced on Facebook, our website, and the phone answering machine.

THE MEETING that was to be held for Youth interested in attending the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis Minnesota in 2021, on Sunday April 5th from 9-9:30 in the sanctuary will likely be rescheduled. It is something to look forward to in 2021.

PROBABLY TO BE POSTPONED – MAY PLAY DAY AT BEAR CREEK CAMP: Sunday, May 3 from 2 - 7 pm. All synod youth, friends, and families are invited to gather for a day of playing, hiking, singing, eating, high ropes course

walking, rock wall climbing, and boating! Children under 12 are \$4 each. Teens and adults are \$8 each. Money is due to me by April 20th. Carpool up to Camp or meet us there. Faith and Families will provide pizza for lunch prior to departure from side parking lot. Pizza served at 11:45 departure for Bear Creek is 12:30.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS: JULY 21, 22, 23 SEE TANYA CARTWRIGHT IF INTERESTED!

<p>LOOKING AHEAD – THE TRIENNIAL YOUTH GATHERING will be held in Minneapolis June 29 – July 3, 2021. The theme will be <i>Boundless: God Beyond Measure</i>. Teens who will be in senior high, parents, and all members, let us pray for this gathering. See Tanya for qualifying ages, and more information as it becomes available.</p>
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Deborah Reed, *President of Church Council* dreed1955@comcast.net

EASTER IS SEVEN WEEKS LONG. If we cannot gather to celebrate it on April 12, then we will celebrate it whenever we gather for worship after that!