

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
605 Madison St., Marshall WI 53559
608-655-4246; www.holytrinitymarshall.com
Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, pastor; Carol Johnson-Hohol, organist
Pastor Raabe: 614-614-2639 (cell), 608-839-0322 (home)

Fifth Sunday of Lent + Virtual Worship + March 29, 2020

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your
Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and
grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we
have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and,
for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the
name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.**

Children's Sermons are now located in the Christian Education area of our web site.



WORD

First reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The "valley of dry bones" is almost certainly the most beloved and well known of Ezekiel's visions. As a nation, Israel seemed to be dead - feeling helpless, hopeless and cut off from their land. Here God is showing Ezekiel that Israel will live again, both as a nation and spiritually. Israel in its full extent reaches beyond national and racial boundaries to include the true people of God of all times.

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."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

Paul is showing and contrast and reassurance in these verses. He does this by the metaphor of contrasting the mind that is set on the flesh (which he equates with death) and the mind that is set on the Spirit (which he equates with life and peace). Paul focuses not on specific behaviors, but on the mindset that lies behind these behaviors. The person whose mind is set on the flesh will love the things of the flesh instead of God. The mind that is set on the Spirit leads to life and peace. God demonstrated his power over death by raising Jesus from the dead, and now dwells in us. Christ's resurrection stands as a guarantee of our resurrection.

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 him. 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 him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

[The Gospel reading is not included in the online service for purposes of length.]

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.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Nancy Raabe

Please link to the sermon at holytrinitymarshall.com from the Virtual Worship page. The printed sermon text may also be found there on a drop-down menu.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again (*especially*). Breathe new life into our dry bones, that we, too, might live with you forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

We ask that you remember your church in this time.

Holy and generous host,
everything we have and everything we are comes from you.
Keep us as faithful witnesses to your goodness
through every gift you have given us to share,
in *various* ways in our lives,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

Greeting of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

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.

blessed

HYMN: "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

ELW 339



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ to a world in need.

Thanks be to God.



News for you

We are expanding our web site, holytrinitymarshall.com, into a “virtual building.” Please visit often to see what’s new. Worship videos may be found in the Virtual Worship area, and children’s sermons, Bible stories and storytime are located in the Christian Education area. There are resources for daily prayer and the latest news regarding our life together. We invite you to view each Sunday’s worship service at our new “virtual worship” time of 10 a.m. on Sundays. Being together in worship at that hour will give us a stronger sense of community.

Thank you to our Liz Vent for her introductions to the first and second readings.

If you are not already on the members-only list for weekly emails, please [write to Pastor Raabe](#).

The Marshall Lions have generously offered to bring groceries or supplies to anyone in the area who needs them. Please call the church office at 608-655-4246 to arrange for delivery.

We know many of you are experiencing economic hardship during this time, but we ask prayerfully that you continue your regular patterns of giving. Mail in your offerings to PO Box 52, Marshall 53559; or see our “Give” page on the web site for the how to set up secure electronic giving, and to learn how to make an occasional gift by text message. Our gratitude goes out to those who are already doing one or more of these.

We urge you to call us with any need you might have, or if you just want to talk. Pastor Raabe can be reached directly by phone or text at 614-214-2639. We are retrieving office voicemail regularly. Let Pastor Raabe know if you are ill or suffering in any way, or if must go to the hospital. We can mobilize people to help as is possible. She and our prayer team want to pray for you.



Dear God: Heal our world and our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil give us hope and peace. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Lutheran World Federation)