

March 21 - 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent Readings

First Reading

A Reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The 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.

The Lord led me all around them;
there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

The Lord said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?"
I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

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 the Lord 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."

I prophesied as he 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."

(pause)

Reader: Word of God, word of Life. *Congregation:* Praise to you, O Christ.

Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But 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.

But if Christ is in you,
then the body is dead because of sin,
but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

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

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to John

Mary and Martha 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.
He then said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

When Jesus arrived,
he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

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 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.

Pastor: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.