

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026



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.



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

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Welcome to Zion!

*“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love...”*

(Joel 2:13)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Prayground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #333

“Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land”

APOSTOLIC 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

ELW Hymn #157

The assembly joins with the refrain, and the Minister sings the verses.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together...**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.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Hear & Respond to God’s Word

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation is written on two staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is labeled 'Cantor' and the second 'All'. The lyrics are: 'Come let us re - turn to the Lord, come, let us re - turn to the Lord;' for the Cantor and 'Come, let us re - turn to the Lord, let us re-turn to the Lord.' for the All. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Mighty to Save”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

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

OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER

ELW Hymn #320

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

Let us pray together... **O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

9 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

13 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

16 Ho-san - na! Ho-san - na! Ho-san-na in the high-
est. Ho-san - na! Ho-san - na!

19 Bless-ed is he who comes! Bless-ed is he who comes!

23 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be your
name, hal - low - ed be your name. Your king - dom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven, on earth as it is in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for - give those who sin a -
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
e - vil, de - liv - er us from e - vil. For yours is the
king - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

SHARING THE MEAL

*During the season of Lent, our meal is shared in silence.
You are encouraged to use this time for prayer and contemplation.*

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Beloved in the Lord, God has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW Hymn #325

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Walk with others as Christ walks with you. **Thanks be to God!**

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Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026

Prayer of the Day

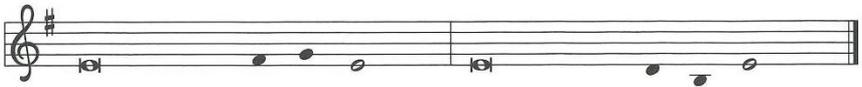
Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14 [not printed]

Psalm

Psalm 130; tone 8



Out ¹ of the depths

I cry to ¹ you, O LORD;

²O LORD, ¹ hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my ¹ supplication.

³If you were to keep watch ¹ over sins,
O LORD, ¹ who could stand?

⁴Yet with you ¹ is forgiveness,
in order that you ¹ may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; ¹ my soul waits;
in your word ¹ is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the LORD
more than those who keep watch
¹ for the morning,

more than those who keep watch
¹ for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD,
for with the LORD there is ¹ steadfast love;
with the LORD
there is plen- ¹ teous redemption.

⁸For the LORD shall ¹ redeem Israel
from ¹ all their sins.

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11 [not printed]

Gospel

John 11:1-45

Now 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,

continued

because they see the light of this world.¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.”¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

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

²⁸ 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.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now

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

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ 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.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² 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.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ 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.”

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