

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church  
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26th 2023

# The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....Matt Palisch, Organist

Processional.....#314 Humbly I Adore Thee

Salutations *Beginning on* BCP p. 351

*Presider:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* His mercy endures for ever.

The Scripture BCP p. 351

*The Presider may say one of the following:*

*Presider:* Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as your as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."  
*Mark 12:29-31*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:12,16*

Confession BCP p. 352

*Presider:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All:* Most merciful God,  
We confess that 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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
Have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
To the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Presider:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

*Presider:* God is with you.

*People:* **And also with you**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

**T**he 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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I 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."

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 he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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 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.' Therefore prophecy, 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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### The Psalm

Psalm 130

*De profundis*

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my  
supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, \*  
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

### Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For 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, and 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, though the body is dead because of sin, 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 from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*The People stand for the hymn.*

The Gospel

John 11:1-45



*Presider:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters 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.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus 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. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The 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 his fellow 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 Jews 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 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 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 she 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 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. 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 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.

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### Sermon

Rev. Annette Joseph

### Nicene Creed

BCP 358

*Presider and People together, all standing*

**All:**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
Of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father.  
 Through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
     he came down from heaven:  
 By the power of the Holy Spirit  
     he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
     and was made man.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
     He suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
     In accordance with the Scriptures.  
 He ascended into heaven  
     and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
     And his kingdom will have no end.  
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
     Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
     With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
     He has spoken through the Prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
     And the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

*Reader:* In this season of miracles and wonders, in this time of  
 God's showing-forth, help us to pay attention to the  
 moments of our days, to the miracle and mystery of  
 life in our daily lives.

***People:* Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.**

*Reader:* We give thanks for those miracles and wonders that  
 we do recognize, and those you would add (*allow  
 people to add thanksgivings*). We pray that we may  
 be filled with gratitude for all your blessings,  
 especially the miracle of this very moment of life.

***People:* Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit**

*Reader:* O God, there is great healing when we give our  
 attention to your presence. Help us to repent, to turn  
 our hearts and minds to you, and to bravely turn away  
 from those things that entice us, but are not good or  
 healthy for us, our neighbors or our earth.

**People:** Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.

**Reader:** We pray for the church, that the Unity of Christ will draw us together in the humility of your love and forgiveness. And we pray for all of us who would follow Christ, but have forgotten how.

**People:** Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.

**Reader:** We pray for the sick, especially those on our prayer list (*here the prayer list may be read*). May they be healed by your life-giving Presence.

**People:** Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.

**Reader:** We pray for those in need of guidance and strength and others we name (*here allow silence for people to add names silently or aloud*). Be with each of these ones.

**People:** Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.

**Reader:** We pray for all of us who feel overwhelmed by all that we have to do. May we find the simpler way, trusting you with all our hearts.

**People:** Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.

**Reader:** We remember all those who have died, especially those known to us. (*Names of those who have died*). For those who have passed on from mortal life, we pray.

**People:** Lord Jesus Christ, may they be with you today in paradise.

### The Peace

**Presider:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ. Stay standing for hymn.*

Offertory Hymn.....#498 Beneath The Cross of Jesus

### The Great Thanksgiving

*BCP p. 361*

*People remain standing*

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Presider:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Presider:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Presider:** It is right, and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of



heaven and earth.

*The Presider proceeds:*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sign this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**.....Fletcher Sanctus

*The people stand or kneel. The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**A//:**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Presider then continues:*

And now, as our Savior-Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**The Lord's Prayer**

*BCP p. 364*

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

*All:* 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**Breaking of the Bread**

*BCP p. 364*

*Presider:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

**Fraction**.....Agnus Dei Fletcher

*Presider:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Communion Hymn**.....#335 I am the Bread of Life

*Presider:* Bob, Gloria, Kent, and Marilyn we send you out to share this Holy Communion with those who can't be

with us. May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People:** May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.

**Post Communion Prayer**

*BCP p. 366*

**Presider:** Let us pray.

**All:** Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Stand for the hymn and dismissal.*

**Recessional Hymn**.....#508 Breathe on me Breath of God

**Dismissal**

**Presider:** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**.....Matt Palisch, Organist

# Notes on the Service

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ez 37:1-14 • Ps 130 • Rom 8:6-11 • Jn 11:1-45

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The collect, from an 8th c. copy of a book ascribed to Pope St. Gregory the Great, summarizes moral theology of which Gregory was a proponent: If God moves our wills to desire his promises and guides our affections to love his commandments, then we shall meet true joys.

As Holy Week approaches, readings begin to anticipate the death and resurrection of Christ. So, dying and rising is the principal theme today.

During the exile, Ezekiel pictures the people of Israel as bones scattered on a field. He promises that God will raise them from the national death which they had suffered in defeat and displacement. For its topic of rising from death, this passage is also read on Easter Eve, and for its topic of the Spirit's giving life, it is also read on Pentecost Eve. In Ezekiel's time, the Hebrew phrase "son of man" seems to have meant "mortal," which is the word the New Revised Standard Version uses for the name by which God calls Ezekiel. By 175 B.C., Daniel's era, son of man had acquired super-natural associations, as a figure like a human being coming from God's right hand. By Jesus' time it carried overtones of messiahship. In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus asked the once-blind man if he believed in the Son of Man, and then identified himself as that heavenly Person.

Psalm 130, *De profundis*, is a lament of an individual (v 5) and also of the nation (v 7). "[T]he depths" could mean deep trouble, or deep under water, or in a deep pit, or in the Pit of the dead, or all four. In Christian liturgies the *De profundis* serves as both a penitential psalm and also a funeral psalm. One could imagine Lazarus in today's Gospel praying, "Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice...."

Observing that the human will is unmanageable except by God, Paul discusses our dying in the old life of sin and rising in the new life of the Spirit. Everyone is a spiritual Lazarus.

On the last two Sundays, Jesus was giver of water and giver of sight. To-day he is shown as giver of life, raising Lazarus from his tomb, one instance of Ezekiel's vision for the nation, and a foretaste of the eternal life described by Paul. Lazarus' resuscitation foreshadows Jesus' own resurrection (but not precisely, for Lazarus will die again), and it demonstrates Jesus' power over death. The resuscitation of Lazarus is also the act which motivates the high priests, "from that day on they took counsel how to put him to death." [Meaning Jesus, but they also discuss killing Lazarus.] After this miracle follows the anointing at Bethany, and after that, Palm Sunday.

**Rev. Stephen Weissman**  
Asheville, North Carolina