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**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**March 22, 2026**

**Opening Hymn #151 (v. 1-3, 6-7)**  
***Christ, the Life of All the Living***

1. Christ, the Life of all the living,  
Christ, the Death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe,--  
Through thy sufferings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit:  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2. Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

3. Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6. Thou hast suffered great affliction  
And hast borne it patiently,

Even death by crucifixion,  
Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7. Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

### **Invocation**

**P:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C: Amen**

## **Kyrie**

♪ Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **The First Lesson – Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon 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." <sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup>Then he said to

me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

### **Psalm of the Day- Psalm 130**

*Antiphon – Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

<sup>1</sup>Out | of the depths\*

**I cry to you, | O Lord!**

<sup>2</sup>O Lord, | hear my voice!\*

**Let your ears be attentive**

**to the voice of my pleas for | mercy!**

<sup>3</sup>If you, O Lord, should mark in- | iquities,\*

**O Lord, | who could stand?**

<sup>4</sup>But with you there is for- | givenness,\*

**that you | may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for the Lord, my | soul waits,\*

**and in his | word I hope;**

<sup>6</sup>my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the | morning,\*

**more than watchmen for the | morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is | steadfast love,\*

**and with him is plentiful re- | demption.**

<sup>8</sup>And he will redeem | Israel\*

**from all his in- | iquities.**

*Antiphon – Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

## **The Second Lesson – Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

### **Verse of the Day – John 11:25**

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.

### **The Gospel – John 11:17–27, 38–53**

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that

whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”<sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”<sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” . . .<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”<sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,<sup>46</sup> but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.<sup>47</sup> So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs.<sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”<sup>49</sup> But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all.<sup>50</sup> Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”<sup>51</sup> He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,<sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but

also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. <sup>53</sup>So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

**P:** Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

**Confession of Faith**  
***The Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**And is seated at the right hand of God**

**the Father Almighty.**

**From there He will come to judge**

**the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**The holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**The forgiveness of sins,**

**The resurrection of the body,**

**And the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day #175**

***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***

1. When I survey the wondrous cross

On which the Prince of glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss

And pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast

Save in the death of Christ, my God;

All the vain things that harm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

### **Sermon Text – Romans 8:1-11**

#### **Sermon**

#### ***Jesus Christ Is the Resurrection and the Life*** **Offertory**

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

#### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

#### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Heavenly Father, in Baptism You have given the new birth of water and the Spirit. Make Your children strong in Your Spirit, that they may shun the works of the flesh and live in this world expecting the resurrection and the life of the world to come.

**1. O Christ who shared our mortal life  
And ended death's long reign,  
Who healed the sick, and raised the dead  
And bore our grief and pain:**

**We know our years on earth are few,  
That death is always near.  
Come now to us, O Lord of Life:  
Bring hope that conquers fear!**

P: O Lord, soften the hearts of Your people in every home. Turn parents and children toward each other in love and patience. Banish the spirit of impudence, stubbornness and rebellion from all. Sanctify us in Your truth.

(cf. Raising of Jairus' Daughter: Mt 9, Mk 5)

**5. A ruler proud but bent by grief  
Knelt down before Your feet:  
"My precious daughter's gripped by death!  
Come now and death defeat!"  
A multitude had gathered round  
To hear the truth You taught,  
But, leaving them, You turned to help  
A father sore distraught.**

P: Lord God, bless President Wilke; Visitor Pfeiffer; and Pastor Schnose, our pastor whom You have sent to prophesy Your Word to us, that Your Spirit's breath would enter us and we may live forever.

**6. You pressed through crowds to reach the child  
Whose limbs with death grew cold.  
"She is not dead; she only sleeps!"  
The weeping folk You told.  
And then You took her hand and called,  
"My child, I bid you rise!"  
She rose! And all stood round You, Lord,  
With awed and wond'ring eyes!**

P: O great Redeemer, we hope in You, for with You there is steadfast love and redemption. We cry to You on behalf of those suffering afflictions [*including* \_\_\_\_\_]. Assure them that their iniquities have been washed away in Christ and their sins forgiven in His blood. Grant them healing and relief from their burdens, according to Your will.

**9. Two weeping sisters, worn by grief  
And mired in depths of gloom,  
Stood watching where their brother lay  
Within a rock-sealed tomb.  
When, Lord, You met them as they mourned,  
You wept compassion's tear.  
But Martha, sore with sorrow said,  
"He'd lived had You been here!"**

P: Gracious Father, Your Son is the resurrection and the life, in whom all the dead will rise and through whom Your elect will live eternally in Your presence. Give comfort to all who mourn, that they might not grieve as those who have no hope but as those whose hope is the crucified and risen One.

**10. "I am the Lord of life and death!"  
You answered Martha's cry,  
"And all who hear and trust My Word  
Shall live, although they die!"  
You walked the path to Laz'rus' tomb,  
You called him forth by name.  
And living, loving once again,  
From death to life he came!**

P: Lord of hosts, You are the true source of life, which You give through the power of Your Spirit. Humble those who are given authority over the lives of our people, that they would discharge this duty honorably in accord with Your will.

**4. Death's power holds us still in thrall  
And bears us toward the tomb.  
Death's dark'ning cloud hangs like a pall  
That threatens earth with doom.  
But You have broken death's embrace  
And torn away the sting.  
Restore to life our mortal race!  
Raise us, O Risen King!**

P: O Lord, God almighty, through Your Son You have kept the promise of the ages and rescued us from sin. You have raised up the dry bones of a people captive to death and made us alive in Christ forever. Sustain us in this hope, that we may endure the tests, trials and troubles of this life and be ready when our Savior comes again in His glory; through ***\*please stand\**** Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **The Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

### **Closing Hymn #196**

#### ***I Am Content! My Jesus Liveth Still***

1. I am content! My Jesus liveth still,  
In whom my heart is pleased.  
He hath fulfilled the Law of God for me,  
God's wrath He hath appeased.  
Since He in death could perish never,  
I also shall not die forever.  
I am content!
2. I am content! My Jesus is my Head;  
His member I will be.  
He bowed His head when on the cross He died  
With cries of agony.  
Now death is brought into subjection  
For me, too, by His resurrection.  
I am content!
3. I am content! My Jesus is my Lord,  
My Prince of Life and Peace;  
His heart is yearning for my future bliss  
And for my soul's release.  
The home where He, my Master, liveth  
He also to His servant giveth.  
I am content!
4. I am content! My Jesus is my Light,  
My radiant Sun of Grace.  
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all,  
Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.  
This Easter sun doth bring salvation

And everlasting exultation.  
I am content!

5. I am content! Lord, draw me unto Thee  
And wake me from the dead  
That I may rise forevermore to be  
With Thee, my living Head.  
The fetters of my body sever,  
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.  
I am content!

## **Silent Prayer**

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