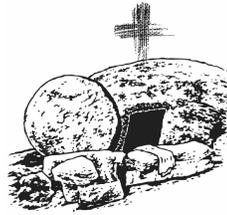


**March 29**



**5<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday  
in  
Lent**

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**Contributions Needed Per Week:** \$6,307.25

**Contributions Pledged thru 2-29-2020:** \$45,770.78

**Contributions Received thru 2-29-2020:** \$42,245.93

**Please remember** to send in your tithes and offerings. Even though worship is suspended our bills need to be paid and our operating expenses met.

While our worship and physical activities are suspended, our Lent worship services and Sunday services can be viewed by logging on to our website, [www.memorial-lutheran.org](http://www.memorial-lutheran.org) or going to youtube.com and search Memorial Lutheran Toledo

**As we all** have been watching the news, we are seeing amazing things people are doing for others in their neighborhoods and communities. We want Memorial to be a part of sharing God's Word through prayer and deed. To begin this process, I would love to hear some of the ideas you have or have seen so we can pass them along. This is a tremendous opportunity to engage as God's servants. Please email me at [Kelly@memorial-lutheran.org](mailto:Kelly@memorial-lutheran.org) with your suggestions and ideas.

## March 29 Worship

Intro: This was suppose to be led by youth and the style and even the skit for the sermon would have been done by them. I am a poor placement for all the kids – but I'm carrying on for them, thanking them for the time and practice which they put into this day...we are blessed by our youth. Pastor Mary

### Prelude

### Invocation

A: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

### He Is Lord Sing 2 x's

He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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

C: **And also with you.**

### Lent Litany

A: We join Jesus in the desert on our Lenten Walk.

C: **Sustain us, dear Lord, and give us His strength to hear your call.**

A: When we thirst,

C: **help us remember that you are the living water that gives us life.**

A: When we are blinded by the world around us,

C: **Help us focus on you and receive fresh sight.**

A: In the darkness of Lent,

C: **remind us we are people of the resurrection, freed to live a new life in this world of sadness and struggle. We are freed people of God, given a gift to live in the joy of the Lord. Amen.**

### The Prayer of the Day

A: 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

### The Children's Message

## The First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The 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. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to 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: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>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." <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup>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.'" <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>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."

## The 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. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though 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 from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**All Sing** – Return to the Lord, you God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

## The Holy Gospel

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>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." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." <sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <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 God will give you whatever you ask of him." <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. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." <sup>28</sup>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." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" <sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>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." <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 looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>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." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>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." <sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## The Message

# Lazarus

by Peter C. Garrison

*Garrison, Peter C, 1951 Witness to the cross: six dynamic dialogs for Lent*

Setting: It is mid-day in bright sun. Two figures sit by a busy road, watching the people pass. They are fellow travelers who have, by chance, walked a way together and *have* stopped to rest. Up to now their conversation has consisted of comments on the heat, and the odd characters they've spotted trudging past. The warm sun works its way with the travelers, causing **the young man to become restless and ready to move on, and** causing the old man to daydream.

Lazarus: (*Remembering long ago . . .*) Yeah. We were quite the rage in those days. The crowds would gather just to look at us, or to try to touch us, grab at our clothes. Me - the "walking, talking miracle" and the miracle worker himself at my side. I tried not to upstage him. Yep, we were quite the thing.

Youth: Who was that, Lazarus?

Lazarus: Jesus and me.

Youth: You knew him? That renegade rabbi? You knew him?

Lazarus: He raised me 'from the dead.

Youth: Yeow! You're *that* Lazarus! You were *dead!* I'm talking "fo" a *dead* man?

Lazarus: I'm alive now - completely, really. You think I'd be talking to you if I were still dead?

Youth: I guess not.

Lazarus: Anyway, sit back down. I'm okay. I'm warm, I sneeze, I go to the bathroom and everything.

Youth: What's it like —being dead?

Lazarus: Don't you want to know about my being raised from the dead? That was the big dead.

Youth: Sure, later—but everybody's got to die, even I've got to die. Tell me about being dead. I heard you were one dead mackerel. So what was it like being dead and everything?

Lazarus: A lot like sleep.

Youth: Did you dream? Did you dream like live people do? Sometimes in black and white, sometimes in colors?

Nightmares, flying with the wind, adventures, romance? Did you see God?

Lazarus: I don't know if I really remember anything in particular. I think if you'd listen about my being raised from the dead it would be more interesting. It's my favorite story.

Youth: But I can relate to death —I have to eventually. Tell me about it.

Lazarus: Really, I don't remember much until I was called forth from the tomb floor. Ah, to get out of the tomb and feel the sunshine again! To hear the voices of my sisters and my fine friend Jesus! The most I remember about dying was the sense of change. There wasn't a sense of decay. It was like I expected something, someone. At the end I seemed to be waiting, trusting...

Youth: For what? Waiting for what ...trusting whom?

Lazarus: Jesus. I could trust him. I could trust his promises. Our family knew him pretty well, actually. He had eaten at our home any number of times. My sisters, Mary and Martha, liked him a lot. He was my hero. When I was sick I thought about him and his promise of eternal life, his promise of God being good. So, when I dies, I was trusting that creation was good and death was part of the whole package. I didn't know that his promise of a future would be, for me, a second life here on earth. So, at the end, I was lying there trusting and expecting something—it wasn't all that scary...No, I'd be lying if I said that...I was scared.

Youth: You, a follower of Jesus, scared of dying?

Lazarus: Are you kidding? I don't care how many promises of eternal life you have. When you die, dying is scary, when you're busy doing it. But, come to think of it, what I was scared of was dying—not death.

Youth: What do you mean?

Lazarus: Well, my fear of dying was of the death I was dying as I died.

Youth: Huh?

Lazarus: I mean, I was afraid of the process of dying. But the promise of eternal life that Jesus gave me—see, that promise was for the future. Dying was my problem only at the present moment. My fear was very real. Yet, in spite of my human nature, I clung to his divine promise for my future. So, dying was scary, but death wasn't. I sure wasn't any hero.

Youth: You Christians all sound like crazy heros. I heard being a Christian is kinda exciting nowadays. The Romans are hurting you and you've gone underground.

Lazarus: Oh, sure. et Christian trust and faith are ways of life, not just of death. Jesus loved life. Jesus was a regular guy; he happened to also be the only Son of God, sent to conquer sin and death.

Youth: Sounds like a "regular guy" to me.

Lazarus: He had good times at our house. He told us stuff—about heaven, about how his feet hurt—he was completely natural. He was human and the Son of God.

Youth: Right.

Lazarus: Well, I should know right? I was dead as a stone and he raised me, called me back to a full life.

Youth: Some favor he did for you.

Lazarus: Huh?

Youth: He gave you the big honor of being one of the first people who get to die twice. You just gotta die again, that's all!

Lazarus: Gee, I hadn't thought of it like that—I think I'm depressed....

Youth: That would have been the first thing I'd thought of. IU just get good and dead, and some guy wakes me up to let me do it all over again. What a crummy joke! I'd be pretty mad at God, not only for letting me die in the first place, but for making me do it twice.

Lazarus: But it is going to be easier now...to die.

Youth: Expecting another miracle?

Lazarus: I don't mean it'll be easier just for me. It'll be easier now for everybody to look at death. Dying will still be horrible and mysterious. But death is no more.

Youth: Easy for you to say—you've been raised through one miracle already.

Lazarus: Yes, but as you point out, I still have to live with the threat of death and suffering, just as you do—except for one thing...

Youth: What's that?

Lazarus: That I have hope for life after death in Jesus' love for this life, as well as his victory over death, his Resurrection. He is the God of life now and forever.

Youth: Nice Christian answer.

Lazarus: Well, it's true. I'm proof and I point to Jesus. This is a big deal. Hey, I'm serious! This is what I do with my new life...I point to the risen Christ, to his victory over death!

Youth: Look, I gotta go now. But you're looking real good for having been dead. You look real natural.

Lazarus: That's the way it's supposed to be. Death forever is unnatural.

## **The Prayers**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its renewal (*like Hans Nielsen Hauge, whom we commemorate today*). Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other natural disasters (*especially*). Bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain (*especially*). Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. (*Particular ministry partnerships may be named.*) Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.

**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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, forever and ever. Amen**

**The Benediction**

P: 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. **C: Amen**

**I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me**

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me. I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me. I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted. me.

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

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