



*“I will make  
breath  
enter you,  
and you will  
come to life.”*

Ezekiel 37:5, NIV

**March 29, 2020**

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Office: (510) 793-6285

March 29, 2020  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
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*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.*

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**GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING**

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[Click here](#) for a video of the entire service.

**PRELUDE . . .** *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”* – Leilani Camara

[Click here](#) for a video of the Prelude only.

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: When our lives become a valley of dry bones,

**All: God clothes us with flesh and hearts that beat with love.**

L: When our souls seem withered away,

**All: God breathes new life into us once more that we might live.**

L: Come! Let us worship.

**All: Let us worship the Lord.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism.

*P: Lord of life, we come to you consumed by our worry and our pain.*

**All: When we blame you for not being there in our need, forgive us.**

*P: When we turn away from you in moments of loss, guide us back to your faithful arms.*

**All: For we long to put our faith in your promised healing.**

*P: We yearn to truly believe that you are the resurrection and the life.*

**All: Teach us once more, Merciful One, that you weep when we weep, and rejoice as we find our way home. Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection

*P: God makes us a promise: "I will put my spirit within you and you shall live."*

**All: The one who showed Ezekiel that a valley of dry bones could live again will bring us newness of life through Christ, who is the resurrection and the life.**

## **GREETING**

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.*

**All: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**L: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death.**

**All: 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.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM . . . “Dem Bones”** – Performed by Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians

[Click here](#) for a video of the performance.

**CHILDREN’S TIME . . . “40 Days & 40 nights”**

– Carmen Blair

[Click here](#) for a video of Children’s Time only.

[Click here](#) for a Children’s Time activity sheet.

[Click here](#) for a Children’s Time coloring sheet.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD**

Reader: Lead us in your truths, O God.

**All: Teach us your ways and your paths.**

Reader: Into whatever journey lies before us,

**All: lead on, Holy Spirit; lead on.**

## **READING . . . Ezekiel 37:1-14**

*Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God’s life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that “I am the Lord.”*

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. 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, “Prophesy 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 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 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.”

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE . . .** *Pastor Tim*

[Click here](#) for a video of the Bible reading and Message only.

## **THE PRAYERS**

L: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. 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. Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: 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.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

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

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of life, during these stressful times we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Hear the words of our heart said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

