

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin

March 29, 2020

9:00am (Livestream)

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Greeting

Last Sunday, from 2 Samuel 24, we heard of Israel's idolatry and of David's pride, reminding us of our own misplaced priorities and confidence. God sent pestilence upon Israel. 70,000 died. In His mercy, God moved the people to repent, drew them close to Him, provided means for David to make a sacrifice for their sins, and by this pointed to His ultimate mercy for us – He provided the perfect, one-time sacrifice for our sins. He sent His only Son into this world. His only Son prayed, "Not my will, but Thy will be done." Jesus got up from the ground in the olive garden, and headed toward Golgotha to be crucified for us.

Today, the pestilence still hovers about. Even more, we are surrounded by God's love and mercy, His saving power and healing strength. Today's reading from John 11 records one of Scripture's most dramatic and powerful events depicting God's mercy upon us. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. When Mary and Martha said, "Lord, if You had been here, our brother would not have died," Jesus replied, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies, and he who lives and believes in me will never die."

Today we will focus not only on Jesus' power to raise the dead, but on the precise word He spoke before He did it. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

We turn to the opening hymn.



SOLO

- 1 My song is love unknown,
 My Savior's love to me,
 Love to the loveless shown
 That they might lovely be.
 Oh, who am I
 That for my sake
 My Lord should take
 Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne
 Salvation to bestow;
 But men made strange, and none
 The longed-for Christ would know.
 But, oh, my friend,
 My friend indeed,
 Who at my need
 His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
 And His sweet praises sing;
 Resounding all the day
 Hosannas to their King.
 Then "Crucify!"
 Is all their breath,
 And for His death
 They thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
 What makes this rage and spite?
 He made the lame to run,
 He gave the blind their sight.
 Sweet injuries!
 Yet they at these
 Themselves displease
 And 'gainst Him rise.

- 5 They rise and needs will have
 My dear Lord made away;
 A murderer they save,
 The Prince of Life they slay.
 Yet cheerful He
 To suffering goes
 That He His foes
 From thence might free.

SOLO

- 6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was His home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing,
 No story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like Thine.
 This is my friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend!

Confession and Absolution

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Psalmody — Psalm 130

Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,

that you may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel

from all his iniquities.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people with Your “love unknown,” with Your love for sinners; through Your mercy and the power of Your resurrection, preserve us in life and through death, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading — Ezekiel 37:1–14

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. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And 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.” ⁷So 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. ⁸And 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. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, 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.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹Then 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.’ ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading — Romans 8:1–11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For 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, ⁴in 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. ⁵For 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. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹You, 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according St. John the eleventh chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he 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 seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his

death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I 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.” ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴The 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.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If 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.” ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (685)

Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

SPOKEN BY ALL

Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

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Sermon “He Said It” (*John 11:25*)

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn

There Is A Green Hill Far Away

There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

CHILDREN AT HOME

We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains He had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiv'n,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heav'n,
Saved by His precious blood.

CHILDREN AT HOME

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin,
He only could unlock the gate
Of heav'n and let us in.

Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved!
And we must love Him too
And trust in His redeeming blood
And try His works to do.



Acknowledgments

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Prayers

In Need of Healing . . . *Bob Buettner, Gabe Delzer, Shirley Kieckhafer, Gregory Kopitske, Jr., Carl Kosbab, Judy Manthei, Laurel Sauerbrei, Donna Seefeldt, and Wallace Zernicke.*



Giving Offerings

Let us continue to thank the Lord and spread His Word through the giving of our offerings. Last week, the number of people utilizing online giving increased, while others of us mailed or dropped off our offering envelopes. Even so, our total offerings this past week were several thousand dollars less than our normal weekly offering, as we all adjust to the virus travel restrictions. *There is additional good news.* This past week we also received two special offerings totaling \$15,000. How wonderful to see everyone working together. For those of us who can, let us give more during these times when the incomes of some are impacted by the Virus restrictions.

Please...

- a. Mail or drop off your regular envelope at the church office.
- b. Find the ONLINE GIVING link on our web page at www.stpaulbonduel.com. Please call the church office if you need help.
- c. Find instructions on the web page to down load a giving app for your phone.



GIVE+

Announcements

Palm Sunday Breakfast – ON HOLD

Thank you to everyone who were willing to donate items. At this time the youth group is not sure if the breakfast will be completely cancelled or postponed to a later date. We will keep the congregation informed. Thank you again! *Robin*

Mission Circle Salad Buffet . . . scheduled for April 16th is on hold until further notice.

Easter Lilies . . . Would you like to help beautify the sanctuary for Easter? Even if the service is livestreamed, we can still make the chancel look festive in honor of our Lord. Lilies are \$17, and spring plants are \$18. Call Karen Baker at 715-853-9137 to order. Our ordering deadline is April 5th.

Thank you . . . \$3,800 was sent to St. Paul Preschool, School, and Church by 42 Thrivent members designating their Thrivent Choice Dollars this past month. We still have approximately 120 eligible people who could call 800-847-4836 or go online at www.thrivent.com/choice. Please consider doing so. The 2019 program ends March 31, 2020. **It is truly appreciated.**

Men's Club . . . for April is cancelled and the Steak Fry is postponed.

Church Cleaning Event . . . for Saturday, March 28, has been cancelled.

The Lutheran Hour . . . "There's Still Time" (*Exodus 11-12*)

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler People can be unreceptive to God's love because they are very bad-or because they think they are very good. Tune in next Sunday at 7:30am on WTCH/960 AM, at 10:00am on WRVM/102.7 FM, or go to www.lutheranhour.org.



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