

Ezekiel's Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones



Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. Ezekiel 37:5-6.

5th Sunday in Lent – March 22, 2026

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Welcome to

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lakewood, Colorado**

A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests. It is our prayer that your faith is strengthened today by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms and hymns and spiritual songs that our Scripture-based liturgy offers every week. St. Paul is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The CLC is represented by congregations throughout the United States, in Canada, and throughout the continent of Africa, India, and neighboring nations. All our churches confess that the Bible is the inspired and unerring Word of God. We invite our Guests to record their visit by signing the Guestbook and to come and worship with us again. Questions? Please speak with one of the ushers. They will happy to assist you!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

based on Worship Supplement 2000 (pp. 12-21)

Opening Prayer

Hymn

LSB 804 "O Worship the King"

The Invocation

P: Welcome ... in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins & Announcement of Forgiveness

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.

Lord, Have Mercy

The Kyrie

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Glory to God in the Highest

The Gloria in Excelsis



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,
Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:
We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,
Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

First Lesson

Romans 8:11-19

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 116

P I love the LORD:

C Because He has heard my voice and my supplications.

P Because He has inclined His ear to me:

C Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.

P Gracious is the LORD, and righteous:

C I was brought low, and He saved me.

P For You have delivered my soul from death:

C My eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

P What shall I render to the LORD:

C For all His benefits toward me?

P I will take up the cup of salvation:

C And call upon the name of the LORD.

Second Lesson

John 11:17-27, 38-45

17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. 19 And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. 20 Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. 21 Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." | 38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go." 45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Alleluia!

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff is a treble clef with a common time signature (C). The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that'. The third staff has the lyrics 'Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.' and the fourth staff concludes with 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'.

Confession of Faith

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

LSB 594 (1-4) *"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"*

Sermon

Ezekiel 37:1-14

"Can These Bones Live?"

1. See a picture of the devastating effects of sin!
2. See a picture of the life-giving work of the Holy Spirit!

1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I

answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.” 4 Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! 5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6 I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.””” 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. 9 Also He said to me, “Prophecy 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.””” 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. 11 Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. 14 I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it,” says the LORD.’ ”

Offertory

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me
 not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
 Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
 Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Offering of Thankful Hearts / Prayer of the Church

The 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.

Hymn (printed on p.10) TLH 382 "Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults"

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you . . .

C: 
A - men, a - men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

LSB 594 (5)

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This Week at St. Paul

Today (3/22)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Wed	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Service 6
Thu	6:30 pm	Elders Zoom Meeting
Sun (3/29)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Palm Sunday Brunch Served by the men
	10:45 am	Sunday School

Extended Calendar

- Maundy Thursday Communion Service: Thursday, April 2, 7 pm
- Good Friday Worship: Friday, April 3, 7 pm
- Easter Sunday Worship: Sunday, April 5, 9:30 am
- Spring Clean-Up Day: Saturday, April 25 (8 am to noon)

April Meeting Schedule

Mary & Martha Ladies: Sunday, April 12, 10:45 am
 Church Council: Sunday, April 19, 830 am
 Quarterly Voters: Sunday, April 12, 10:45 am

Our Midweek Lenten Service Schedule will continue this Wednesday, March 25, at 7:00 pm. In this last of six services in our Lenten series "Ironies of the Passion" we will consider the irony: "He (King Herod) Had Been Wanting to See Jesus."



Synod News & Notes

- Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI will host their annual High School Visitors Day on Friday, May 1, 2026 for students grades 7 and up. An invitation letter, schedule of events, and online registration can be found at www.ilc.edu. Please register students and chaperones by Friday, April 24. A theater performance of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* will take place on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm. The Immanuel Band will perform before the play on Friday at 7:00 pm, and student talent performances will take place Saturday at 7:00 pm. Performances are free and open to the public. For more information regarding ILHS Visitors Day, please contact Prof. Matt Thurow (matt.thurow@ilc.edu 612-516-1177) For general questions regarding the high school program, please contact the high school principal, Prof. Joel Gullerud (joel.gullerud@ilc.edu 715-544-8446).
- Jaqi Bredehoft will be resigning as girls dorm supervisor at the end of this school year. We thank her for her faithful service to the LORD and for being such a positive role model to our dorm students. ILC is accepting applicants for this position to begin the 2026-27 school year. This role is vital to our campus, given how dorm supervisors provide spiritual counsel and a fatherly or motherly role to those students who are living away from home. Females who are CLC members in good standing and are able and willing to fill this position may contact ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck (dan.schierenbeck@ilc.edu/660.864.9231) for more information about the responsibilities and compensation for this position. An application is available online at ilc.edu > Forms and Applications > ILC Employment Application. Review of applications begins April 15.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

March 23-28

Mon John 8:46-59 Accused of having a demon, Jesus responds, “On the contrary, I honor my Father” (v49). And when He said, “Before Abraham was born, I AM” (v58), they were ready to stone Him.

Tues Hebrews 9:11-15 The high priests of old were mere illustrations of Christ, the high priest who is the mediator of a new covenant, and who sacrificed Himself to cleanse us from sin and give us eternal life.

Wed Genesis 12:1-3 The Lord calls Abram out from his country and his father’s family to a land new to him. He promises great blessings to Abram and great blessings to all families of the earth through him.

Thurs Psalm 27:1-6 Because the Lord is our safe stronghold, we need not fear evildoers advancing against us. If we can see the beauty of the Lord (v4), we will be lifted up above the enemies around us (v6).

Fri Psalm 27:7-14 With David (and Christ) we call upon the Lord in the day of trouble. Guided by the light of His Word we are taught His ways (v11). Confident of His goodness, we wait for the Lord! (V14)

Sat Psalm 54 When David was betrayed to Saul, who was hunting him down, he looked to God his Savior. Indeed, his Helper (v4) was the One who had power over every enemy, and could lift him up (v7).

Hymn after the Lord's Prayer

Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults

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C. M.

St. Flavian
"Psalter"
John Day, 1562

Titus 3: 3, 7
Isaac Watts, 1709, alt.



1 Lord, we con-fess our nu-m'rous faults; How great our guilt has been,
2 But, O my soul, for-ev-er praise, For-ev-er love, His name
3 'Tis not by works of right-eous-ness Which our own hands have done,
4 'Tis from the mer-cy of our God That all our hopes be-gin;



How vain and fool-ish all our tho'ts, And all our lives were sin.
Who turns thy feet from dang'rous ways Of fol-ly, sin, and shame.
But we are saved by God's free grace A-bound-ing thro' His Son.
'Tis by the Wa-ter and the Blood Our souls are washed from sin. A-men.



5 'Tis through the purchase of His death Who hung upon the tree
The Spirit is sent down to breathe On such dry bones as we.
6 Raised from the dead, we live anew;
And justified by grace,
We shall appear in glory, too,
And see our Father's face.

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214



Pastor: Thomas Schuetze, 303-428-5524, trschuetze@yahoo.com

President: Ed Chiappetti, 303-882-1776

Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels

Serving Us Today

Organist Lisa Sprengeler

Ushers John Sprengeler, Mike Sprengeler

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