

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 3-Year Lectionary, Year A  
Evangelical Heritage Version TM

## First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

**1** 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 the valley, and it was full of bones. **2** He led me all around them on all sides. There were very many on the valley floor, and they were very dry. **3** He said to me, “Son of man, can these dry bones come back to life?” And I answered, “LORD God, you know.” **4** Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.’” **5** This is what the LORD God says to these bones: I am about to make breath enter you so you will come back to life. **6** I will attach tendons to you. I will put flesh on you. I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will come back to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.” **7** So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I was prophesying there was a noise, in fact, a rattling, as the bones came together, as each bone connected to the right bone. **8** As I watched, tendons appeared on them, then flesh came on them, and he covered them over with skin from above. But there was no breath in them. **9** Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind that this is what the LORD God says: From the four winds, come, O breath, and blow into these slain that they may come back to life. **10** So I prophesied as he commanded me. Breath entered them, and they came back to life. They stood on their feet, a very, very large army. **11** Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They are saying, ‘Our bones are dried up. Our hope is lost. We have been completely cut off.’ **12** Therefore, prophecy and say to them that this is what the LORD God says. ‘I am going to open your graves and raise you up from your graves, O my people, and bring you into the land of Israel. **13** Then you will know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and when I raise you up from your graves, O my people. **14** I will put my Spirit in you, and you will come back to life. I will settle you on your own land, and you will know that I am the LORD. What I have spoken I will do, declares the LORD.’”

## Second Lesson: Romans 8:11-19

**11** And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit, who is dwelling in you. **12** So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in harmony with it.

**13** For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. **14** Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **15** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “Abba, Father!” **16** The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children. **17** Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him. **18** For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. **19** In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed.

## Gospel: John 11:17-27, 38-45

**17** When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. **18** Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. **19** Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them concerning their brother. **20** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary was sitting in the house. **21** 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 from God, God will give you.” **23** Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” **24** Martha replied, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the Last Day.” **25** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. **26** And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish. Do you believe this?” **27** “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.” **38** Jesus was deeply moved again as he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **39** “Take away the stone,” he said. Martha, the dead man’s sister, told him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, because it has been four days.” **40** Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” **41** So they took away the stone. Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” **43** After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **44** The man who had died came out with his feet and his hands bound with strips of linen and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus told them, “Loose him and let him go.” **45** Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.