

March 26, 2023  
5th Sunday in Lent



SON OF MAN, CAN THESE  
BONES LIVE?

O LORD GOD,  
*You know.*



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## ✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: WS #722

"Deep Were His Wounds"

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

### Confession of Our Sins

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*We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

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**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

### Absolution from Our God

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*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

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**P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response: TLH #644

"Praise God, from Whom..."

**C**        ♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## The Introit

Ps. 116:1ff

*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

- P** Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.
- C** **I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.**
- P** Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- C** **The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.**
- P** Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"
- C** **For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

## The Gloria Patri

TLH 158:1, 6

*Latin for "Glory be to the Father."*

- C** **♫ Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the life-blood From His sacred veins!  
Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood,  
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!**

## Collect Prayer of the Day

- P** Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed Your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through His anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

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

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <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 whatever you ask from God, God will give you."<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. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"<sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world. . . ."<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus 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."<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 lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.<sup>42</sup> I 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."<sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."<sup>44</sup> The 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."<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

## **Romans 8:11-19**

If 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.<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,

but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

## **Confession of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

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*The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.*

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### **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 Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn: TLH #151**

*"Christ the Life of All the Living"*

### **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.<sup>2</sup> And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy over 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: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> And 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." <sup>7</sup> So 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. <sup>8</sup> And 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. <sup>9</sup> Then 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." <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup> Then 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 indeed cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore 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. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> And 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."

## The Bones Tell *Our* Story

### The Offertory

*In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.*

**☩ ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

**Sermon Hymn: TLH #206:1-5 "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"**

**Prayers, Lord's Prayer, and Benediction**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

*The blessing given by God for His people.*

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**G** Amen.

**Hymn: Below**

*"My Song is Love Unknown"*



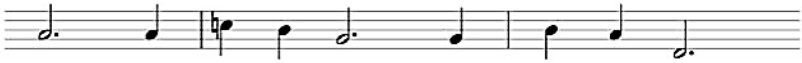
1. My song is love un -  
2. He came from His blest  
3. Here might I stay and



known, My Sav - ior's love to me, Love  
throne Sal - va - tion to be - stow; But  
sing, No story so di - vi - ne! Nev -



to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would  
er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,  
Thine, This is my friend, In whose sweet praise



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
Who at my need His life did spend!  
I all my days Could gla - dly spend.

**Budget Deficit:** Our offerings-to-date have fallen short of our 2023 Budget by \$3,169.23.

<b>March 19<sup>th</sup> Offerings:</b>	\$ 1,739.75
Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,661.54
General Fund Balance	\$21,152.47
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$35,889.33
<b>Total Cash All Funds</b>	<b>\$72,377.64</b>

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Mar. 27 – Apr. 01

**Mon John 13:31-35** Judas has “gone out” to betray Jesus to His enemies (v31). God will now be glorified in showing mercy to mankind in Christ. Jesus, who is about to lay down His life for His “friends” (cpJn15:13), calls upon His disciples to love one another “just as I have loved you” (v34).

**Tues Numbers 21:4-9** After the Israelites complained that the Lord wanted them to die in the wilderness, and that they hated the food He provided, God sent venomous snakes among them that did bring about the death of many. When they repented and asked that the snakes be removed, God removed the deadly effect of the snakes through the bronze serpent on the pole, a picture of Christ on the cross (cf Jn 3:14f).

**Wed Luke 23:27-31** Some women of Jerusalem, following the procession to the cross, weep over the inhumane way that Jesus is being treated. Jesus warns them that there will be much more to weep about in future times for this city, which now has the Savior among them but is casting Him out.

**Thurs Luke 23:32-34** Jesus is numbered with the worst of criminals and crucified among them, while the soldiers divide up His clothes among themselves. Yet at just that time Jesus shows His love toward those who nail Him to the cross, praying for their forgiveness, as He also dies for ours.

**Fri 1 Peter 1:17-21** Peter reminds us all that we were ransomed from a dead-end life by the precious blood of Christ. This was God’s plan from before the foundation of the world, and it is He who persuades us to trust and hope in God, who raised our Redeemer from the dead.

**Sat 1 Peter 1:22-24** It was by the living and abiding word of God that we were persuaded to trust God’s great love for us in Christ Jesus. May we then reflect that love to each other. The word of God will continue forever, so our faith and love for Him and our love for one another may also remain.