

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 28 - 29, 2020



The Scripture readings for Lent 5 prepare us in marvelous ways for the central focus of Holy Week and the entire Christian faith: Christ's death and resurrection. The appointed Psalm places us in the right posture for confessing this central proclamation: "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord" (Ps 130:1), a reality greatly enhanced when contemplating the bones and graves mentioned in the Old Testament Reading. Just as the Lord's Word is emphasized in Ezekiel 37 as that which brings life out of death, so also does Psalm 130 express hope in the same: "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope" (130:5). While the psalmist ends on a note of confidence that the Lord will indeed redeem Israel (130:7-8), Ezekiel receives one of the most remarkable visions of what exactly that means. With much talk of both physical and spiritual death, life, and the role of the Spirit, the apostle Paul in the Epistle (Rom 8:1-11) is practically writing a commentary on the Ezekiel text from the perspective of Christ's resurrection. Verse 11 illustrates this quite nicely: "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." Finally, the raising of Lazarus in the Gospel provides not only a powerful display of how our Lord triumphs over death but also a foreshadowing of what will soon happen to him (note the many similarities between the two: "tomb," "stone," "linen," "face cloth," "weeping") and to all those who live and believe in him (Jn 11:26).

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

12809 State Route 736 Marysville, OH 43040

Office Phone: 937-644-5540

Church Website: www.stjohnsmarysville.org

School Website: www.sjsmarysville.org

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Rev. Jack D. Heino, Sr. Pastor 937-240-3002

Mr. Rich Rausch, Principal 937-240-3003

Equipping the family of God to joyfully and boldly make disciples of Christ as we

KNOW Jesus and one another, **GROW** to be more like Him and

SOW His love in Word and deed.



LIVE Stream Worship Service

Steven Bumgarner – Accompanist

Jaiden Archer – Soloist



“Take a Breather” - Ezekiel 37:1-14

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me. (LSB 878:4) Echoing the words of this hymn, we realize this world is often filled with change and challenges, distress, despair, dying, and death. Yet Jesus came into this decaying world that we may have life, and have it to the full.

Amid the changes and decay around us, through His Word and Means of Grace we are given new life and the forgiveness of sins. By faith, we give thanks for His abiding with us daily with His mercy, grace, promise, and peace. So...Take a Breath! Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies. Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me. (LSB 878:6)

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SONG OF INVOCATION by Steven Bumgarner, “**He Is Able**”

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 116:1-9; Ezekiel 37:13-14, adapted

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY

[Bible readings found on pages 9-11 of this worship program]

FIRST READING: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

SECOND READING: *Romans 8:1-11*

HOLY GOSPEL: *John 11:1-45*

WORSHIP PRESENTATION by Jaiden Archer, “**Jesus, Refuge of the Weary**”

APOSTLES CREED

SERMON MESSAGE: “**Take a Breather**” - *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

SONG OF RESPONSE by Steven Bumgarner, “**Servant King**”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERINGS OF OUR TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

“Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG by Steven Bumgarner, “**And Can It Be**”

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NOTES AND NEWS

Current Notes & News Publication: During this time of "social distancing" due to the current health crisis, we want to continue to try and provide the most accurate information we can regarding St. John's Church & School and Community events. Therefore we will continue to publish the Notes & News as normal. If you have information you would like to share, please email Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary, at rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org by Tuesday at noon. Printed Notes & News can be picked up in the front entryway of the school building (where the offices are located), or you can refer to our church website at www.stjohnsmarysville.org.

Worship Service Information: Here at St. John's Marysville, we are cancelling all public worship services until the "all clear" is given from our state and local governments regarding the COVID - 19 virus. Please keep an eye out for our video online and audio opportunities for worship! Please phone your family and friends as well as those you work and play with for encouragement and wellness checks with the love of Christ in your voice. This Sunday we will post a 9am worship service through Facebook which will be viewable live or online at anytime after at: <https://www.facebook.com/jack.heino>

You can find a wonderful worship resource from our seminary in Ft. Wayne – this is the source of the DVD's we make for our local senior living centers: <https://worshipanew.org/>

The Lutheran Hour also has some great resources for devotions and small group: <https://www.lutheranhour.org/>

Our congregation also has a subscription to a wonderful resource – it is like Netflix for Bible Studies and Christian videos!! If you would like to have access to all this site has to offer please email Pastor Jack at jheino@stjohnsmarysville.org and he will send you an invite with a password to get full benefit: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Library/>

Prayer Requests: We will continue to update our prayer sheet and will post it on our website. If you have a prayer request, please let us know.

In the days and weeks to come, we will continue to seek ways to serve one another in Christ safely and proactively. If you have any needs or would like to help, please let the church and school office know.

Please feel free to contact: Pastor Jack - direct phone number: 937-240-3002, cell phone: 937-537-6222 or email: jhenio@sjsmarysville.org. Regina - direct phone number: 937-240-3004 or email: rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org. Rich Rausch - direct phone number: 937-240-3003 or email: rtausch@sjsmarysville.org



Order Your Easter Lilies

The Flower Committee is taking orders for lilies to decorate the church for Easter. The cost for a lily is \$7.50. **The deadline for orders is TODAY,**

Sunday, March 29.

You may place your lily order by calling Charlotte Blumenschein at 937-644-4111 or emailing her at dudley@centurylink.net

The lilies may be picked up after Easter in the front entryway of the school building (where the offices are located). Please contact any Flower Committee member with questions. **Thank you for your support.**



In this rapidly changing environment we find ourselves in, the White House Coronavirus Task Force announced today that people should not meet together in groups of 10 or more. In order to protect you, our dear GriefShare members, we have made the decision to put "on hold" our future GriefShare gatherings, starting Thursday, March 19.

Hopefully, as things settle down with the virus, we can resume meeting together. Janet and I will continue to pray for each and every one of you! Thanks for your understanding.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

Welcome to St. John's. Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We pray that you will encounter Christ, the Living Word, and in a new way experience His mercy and grace today. If you are a guest or visitor we hope we have the chance to say hello. If you would like to know more about our ministry, please speak with the person next to you, to the pastor, call the church office, or indicate when you sign the attendance form. **Sign in, please!** We ask all worshippers to sign in the attendance directory in order to let us know of your presence with us enabling us to take better care of you.

The Church Nursery: Parents are welcome to take children to the nursery and stay with them during any part of the worship services.

The Lutheran Hour is on the radio Sunday mornings at **7:00am on WLW (700 AM)**. Log on to www.lhm.org for more information and channels. Jim Vandre, LHM Ambassador.

St. John's Radio Program airs Sunday mornings at **8:30am** on local channel **WQTT (1270 AM & 98.7 FM)**.

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given in thanksgiving to God and in celebration of **Ada Jane Anderson's 4th** birthday by her grandparents, Nathan and Mary Rausch.

THE LORD'S WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S MARCH 29-APRIL 5, 2020

We are reviewing events on a week to week basis. At this time, ALL Church and School activities are Cancelled.

ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 - 11:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Toddlers—School Preschool Room

3's - Kindergarten—Church Basement

1st - 6th Grades—Gathering together in the school open common area (near the school library) and split into classes from there.

7th & 8th Grade Youth Catechism Class—School Modulares

High School Youth "Cornerstone Discipleship"—Youth House

Women's Bible Study—School Loft

Adult Bible Study—Cafeteria: **Topic, "We the People: Citizens of Two Kingdoms."**

Adult Bible Study—Heritage House: **New Topic - Join us as we spend this Lenten and Easter season following Jesus to His ultimate act of obedience and sacrifice at the cross. We will be using a Ray Vander Laan resource titled, "The Path to the Cross."**

Adult Bible Study—Heritage House: **Week Study -**

Mon: No School Tues: No School

Wed: No School Thurs: No School

Friday: No School

Save the Date



St. John's L.E.A.P. Benefit Gala 2020

Hosted on Friday, July 10th at 6 pm

St. John's Gymnasium

12809 SR 736 Marysville, OH 43040

6-6:30 Doors Open | Silent Auction

6:30-7:30 Dinner

7:30 Presentation by L.E.A.P.

Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, July 11th

Registration at 8 am, shot gun start at 8:30 am

Located at The Ridge Golf and Gardens

Plain City Food Bank is in Need of Food

Plain City Food Bank was recently robbed and had most of their food and supplies taken.

If anyone can help out, please contact Ray

Meister at 614-214-6985.

NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



GOLDEN EAGLES NEWS: UPDATES TO UPCOMING EVENTS

We pray that you are staying well and doing all that you can to keep yourselves safe during this uncertain time as we deal with the Coronavirus. As closing and restrictions continue to increase, we're sorry to announce that two of our Golden Eagles events have been affected. Due to the area school closings, our tour of Tolles Career and Technical Center in April has been cancelled. We hope to be able to reschedule that in the future once schools are in session again.

On a similar note, we received word today from Ike Reynolds of Reynolds Travel regarding our planned trip to Holland, Michigan for the Tulip Festival in May. He forwarded an email from Tulip Festival officials which reads in part, "Due to the Center for Disease Control's most recent directive to cancel all events involving 50 or more people for the next eight weeks, we have made the extremely difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Tulip Festival." Mr. Reynolds has begun the process of requesting refunds from our tickets to the festival, along with contracts with hotel rooms and motor coach. He feels positive about the situation, but has been informed the process may take as much as 60 days to complete. We will keep you informed as we work through the process. If you have questions, you may contact Reynolds Travel at 866-880-0577.

ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THAT THE APRIL 1 LENTEN SUPPER HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

Please continue to pray for our country and those affected as we deal with this very difficult situation. Those most at risk of being affected by this virus are, unfortunately, many of our own Golden Eagles friends and family. Let's do all we can to be proactive and keep our families and loved ones safe.



VBS 2020: APRIL 5 VBS LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING IS CANCELLED. PLEASE LOOK TO FUTURE NOTES & NEWS FOR UPDATES.

Contact Amanda Moore with questions at 937-243-7471.



Thank you to all who remembered me on my birthday with cards, and to all the children who made cards for me, and may God bless. **George Harbold**

Weekly Worship Bible Readings: For those of you who would like to study the Word ahead of the next weekends worship services, we are listing here in the N&N the Bible readings that Pastor Jack will be using. **April 5 - Old Testament:** Isaiah 50:4-9a, **Epistle:** Philippians 2:5-11, **Gospel:** Matthew 27:11-66

Mobile Version of Online Giving: St. John's offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give by credit or debit card anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader! You may also go to stjohnsmarysville.org and click on the "Electronic Giving" button and follow the easy directions.



Worship attendance for 03/21 and 03/22: NONE AT THIS TIME

**Congregational Tithes
Third Quarter Mission
Opportunities of Fiscal
Year 2019-20**



Ohio District LCMS - 50%,
Youth Mission Outreach - 10%,
Hearts for Jesus - 10%,
Food for the Poor - 10%, LAMP - 10%,
Kingdom Investment International - 10%

'NOTES & NEWS' Items - Weekly Schedule: Please submit articles and announcements to Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary, by calling directly at 937-240-3004, dropping off articles to the office or emailing them to rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org, by **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, AT NOON. Thank you.**

Assisted Hearing Devices: Please speak to an usher to use one of these devices. If you would like to purchase one of your own, or contribute to the purchase of additional units, please see Pastor Jack.



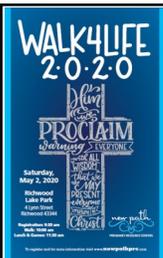
MORE NOTES & NEWS ITEMS

LYF NEWS

Ever considered joining LYF on a mission trip?! LYF is looking for adults to join us on our upcoming mission trip this summer to Imperial, Pennsylvania. In Imperial, our group will provide home repairs at no cost for elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged people, all while sharing the light of Christ to those we meet!



As an adult chaperone, you will be encouraging leadership within our youth while on the worksites, as well as growing in our faith and fellowship together through daily devotions and worship programs. We will be in Imperial from June 21-27. If you are interested, please reach out to Laura Zeiler at lauraezeiler@gmail.com or 913-549-0057. It is guaranteed to be a fun-filled, fantastic week growing in Christ and our relationships with each other!



Do you want a WALK4LIFE T-Shirt?

Everyone who is registered by April 10th receives a free T-Shirt! (receipt of T-shirts might be delayed until a later date). Come join New Path Pregnancy Resource Centers in their Annual Walk4Life! We are coming TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL as two counties who love the message of LIFE! We will walk on Saturday, May 2nd in Richwood (Richwood Lake Park – 4 Lynn St.). Please visit our website (www.newpathprc.com) for more details and to register!



Equipping the Saints . . .

In Ephesians 4 (NRSV) Paul talks about pastors and other leaders as gifts God has given the church “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” Stephen Ministry has given us an organized way to equip those gifted for caring ministry so that they can build up the body of Christ by providing Christian care and support to those experiencing a difficult time. If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry please call Doug Doellinger 937-644-0576 or Linda Kosakowski 614-506-6179.

ALL SERVICES PENDING: Lenten Worship Schedule

Midweek Lenten Services: CANCELLED: April 1, 4:00 & 7:00 pm
Lenten Suppers: CANCELLED: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the School Cafeteria

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday: April 5: WORSHIP CANCELLED
- RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 31: Youth Confirmation Reception, 8:00 am, Gym
- RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 31: Youth Confirmation Worship Service, 9:00 am
- Out Abounds Contemporary Worship, 11:00 am/Communion

Maundy Thursday: April 9, 4:00 & 7:00 pm/Communion

Good Friday: April 10, Tenebrae Service: “Service of Darkness”, 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday: April 11, 6:00 pm/Communion

Easter Sunday: April 12, 9:00 am Traditional & 11:00 am Out Abounds Contemporary Worship Services/Communion

No Sunday School Classes, but please attend:
CANCELLED: 10:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt
CANCELLED: 10:15 am - Our Family Easter Breakfast hosted by the Cafeteria Bible Study Group

If still taking place, please join us here at St. John’s for our upcoming Holy Week & Easter Worship Services!

NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



PO Box 278, Marysville, OH 43040
ucn2n.org

UCN2N Short Term Membership Program in Response to COVID-19

Friendly Neighbor Short Term Membership

Cost: \$35 for 3 months to cover April-June (Individuals can join in March)

- Cost covers coordination of services and background checks for volunteers to ensure we are keeping our members safe.

Short Term Membership Includes:

Potential Members do a modified home visit via phone interview in which Service Coordinator reviews member application. Application is mailed to individual with envelope and stamp to return signed and with check for \$35. Members have access to these services ONLY:

- o Well check phone calls done weekly by Service Coordinator or Volunteer.
- o Grocery delivery to doorstep by Volunteer.
- o Errands by Volunteer (prescription pickup-no narcotics, picking up carry out food, etc., non-grocery related errands).
- o Access to UCN2N informational newsletters, friendly cards.

***If a member wants to fully join after their short-term membership is up in June, we will do a full home visit and they will need to pay the full \$15/month.

Costs and Fundraising:

- UCN2N is encouraging individuals to GIFT these memberships to family members and neighbors who might benefit. UCN2N is currently reaching out to funding partners to create a fund for those who cannot afford the \$35 cost.

To Join Call 877-354-8262 or email ucn2nohio@gmail.com



MORE NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



PO Box 278, Marysville, OH 43040
ucn2n.org

UCN2N Short Term Volunteer Program in Response to COVID -19

Short Term Volunteer Program

In order to accommodate new members and to ensure we can still meet our current members needs we will need additional volunteers. UCN2N wants to tap into churches who want to assist and individuals who may have more availability over the next few months with businesses shut down. Short Term Volunteers will receive a modified virtual orientation and be sent paperwork to be signed via email. They will scan and send back along with a picture of their driver's license, references and car insurance. Volunteers will complete a back ground check or show proof of a background check done within the past year.

Short Term Volunteers will ONLY PROVIDE the following:

- o Well Check Calls.
- o Grocery Delivery to Doorstep.
- o Non-Grocery Related Errands done by Volunteer.

*** If a Volunteer wants to remain on with UCN2N past June, they will need to do full Volunteer orientation to be eligible to do additional services.

ALL Short-Term Members and Volunteers will need to follow precautions (taking temperature prior to service request) and canceling request if ill.

To Volunteer please email volunteers@ucn2n.org or call 877-354-8262



NOTES & NEWS ITEMS

Comfort Quilts – Lutheran World Relief (LWF) sends quilts to groups around the world who distribute them to people needing a warm quilt to use as a cover or to wrap a baby or to carry their personal possessions. We have been providing Comfort Quilts to LWF for several years. Our quilts have gone to people in **Tanzania, Republic of Georgia, Iraq, Mauritania, and Armenia.** We meet in the church basement the Wednesday following the Ladies' Aid meeting day to assemble and tie these Comfort Quilts. Then in October we take them to the drop off point in Waldo to be shipped to the distribution centers. We invite you to join us to tie these quilts. No quilting ability is needed, just the ability to tie a knot! **Upcoming Comfort Quilt Workdays: Wednesday, April 8; and Wednesday, May 13. We meet 10 AM to 2 PM – come when you can and leave when you must. ALL DEPENDS ON HOW THINGS GO WITH THE HEALTH CRISIS – STAY TUNED!**

Today's Bible Readings

First Reading: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

Ezekiel 37 is a famous passage that records Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones. This vision took place while Israel was in Babylonian captivity (so sometime between 586 B.C. and 538 B.C.). Yahweh brought Ezekiel out in His Spirit to a valley of dry bones (37:1). Back in chapter 6, God said He was bringing a "sword" upon Israel and would "scatter" their bones (6:3-5). The bones that are raised to life are then described as "an exceedingly great army" (37:10). So, this scene suggests the aftermath of a battle. Ultimately, this is a picture of resurrection, not of individual resurrection but national resurrection. Remember, the bones stand for the house of Israel. Israel is scattered all over the world, but the bones suddenly come together, are restored to the land and form a nation. They are no longer just bones. Ezekiel was a prophet of hope. He had a message of hope to the hopeless. Ezekiel had a word for them, and he has a word for us. God can do the impossible.

No matter how bad things look, God can intervene. These bones were dry and dead. We can't bring them to life. He can. He can make dry, dead bones live again. God can bring life where there is no life.

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'" ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin 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 it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. ¹¹Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: *Romans 8:1-11*

Romans 8:6-11 must thus be understood as a text of affirmation, affirmation of what God has already done in the life of the believer and of the church as a whole through the incarnation and death of Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1-5). It stands as an affirmation of the changed status and mindset of the believer because of God's action. In this text Paul gives us a word of assurance, a promise that the very thing we are unable to do, breathe life into ourselves -- for, we are mortal -- is that which the Spirit of Christ has already done in us. And echoing through this assertion of faith is the credo that ends Romans 8, and which undergirds all those who, through God's intervention, are spirit-infused: nothing created can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: *John 11:1-45*

The story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead in the Gospel of John is a prelude to the Resurrection of Jesus Himself. An event which changed human history, and our world. So, The story of Lazarus' resurrection is ours, too. Like Lazarus, we are bound by the death-dealing powers which surround us - such as narrow-mindedness, long-held grudges, broken relationships, and the inability to see life's possibilities. Today's Gospel offers us hope, it calls on us to untie one another, to free one another, and to journey together unfettered, knowing that in freedom, God walks with us. Jesus did not say that the person who believes in him "will" have eternal life. He says that the person who believes in him "has" eternal life. Sure, the Resurrection of Jesus makes all good things possible for us. But what makes it really special for us — here and now — is that it is a gift that transforms our very existence in this world. Like Lazarus in this Gospel, we are called to make the passage from death to new life. May you have the courage this Lent to die to sin so that you may enter more fully into the new life of the Resurrection.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,⁷ and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light.¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there

to wake him up.”¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.”¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead,¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.”²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

