

# RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church  
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Radisson, SK

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT March 29, 2020

**St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham**  
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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day:

**Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

**First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

Psalm 130

**Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11**

**Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45**

**Devotion for the week: - Pastor Melissa**

I've been feeling down since our parish has suspended our usual gatherings in an effort to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus. Of course, the Holy Spirit is still at work and we are figuring out ways to stay connected and continue to proclaim the Gospel.

Last Sunday I could have tuned into any number of worship livestreams, YouTube videos, even virtual Sunday School from my colleagues. But for

that one Sunday, I didn't. Because that day, it just made me too sad. We don't know how long we will have to abstain from in-person worship, and honestly, I needed to grieve this situation. Maybe you're grieving an abruptly ended school year, or an event that had to be deferred. Maybe you can't see someone close to you who's in long-term care. Maybe you're a healthcare worker feeling the extra pressure. There are a multitude of reasons why any of us might feel like weeping these days.

In the Gospel text today, Jesus goes to be where Mary and Martha are, and he weeps with them. He reveals a God who not only works to set things right and to bring new life out of death, but also one who walks along with us when that death is close at hand. We do not weep alone. We do not weep in despair.

The church doors are closed, but Christ is with you. Christ directs us to praise God and love our neighbour and lift up prayer wherever we are, however we can. Christ knows and carries and transforms all of our grief and suffering with his self-giving love. Christ is with us, and he will lead us through, from weeping, to dying, to living. Let us go with him. Amen.

### Prayers of Intercession:

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

#### A Brief Silence

God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its renewal. Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other natural disasters. Bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration

paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain (especially ...). Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again. Breathe new life into our dry bones, that we, too, might live with you forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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**Fifth Sunday in Lent:** In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.

**Let us remember in our prayers:** Guy Norton, Heather Penno at home, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Susan Wonko, Don Wenner, David Friesen, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Ida Muller, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp

Also for everyone affected by COVID 19 - those who have been infected, those who are quarantined, those who continue to care for the sick, those making major decisions.

**Pastor Melissa** has uploaded a worship service video on the YouTube channel for our parish. Check it out on <https://youtu.be/pAw1Z6i451s>

**For more worship services/devotions** you could check out the following:

- Pastor Randy Fiege is live on Facebook every day at 11:00a with a short devotional, as well as a service Sunday morning at 11:00a.
- If you follow ELCIC on either Twitter or Facebook, the national bishop posts a daily hymn suggestion and a prayer. On Twitter, she sometimes posts a video of her singing the hymn.
- Also, the Lutherans Connect Blog. <https://reimaginingjustice.blogspot.com/2020/03/>
- The ELCIC website has a list of worship livestreams from congregations across the country:  
[http://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm?fbcl\\_id=IwAR1s5epuR-bBR89vhI8LNZR8GZq5Y6QFVk62YR\\_nV\\_Tm6YMaY3T5eva-nBw](http://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm?fbcl_id=IwAR1s5epuR-bBR89vhI8LNZR8GZq5Y6QFVk62YR_nV_Tm6YMaY3T5eva-nBw)

**First Sask** - Palm leaves are available now in the front entrance of the church for anyone who would like to pick some up.

**We will continue** to put out some form of bulletin each week which will include a devotion to each congregation by email, Facebook post, or as a printed handout in the normal fashion. Also, St. Paul church will be open for silent prayer and reflection, Sunday mornings, 9:30-11:00a.

**St. Paul:** If anyone would like to receive the bulletins by email please email the parish address and let me know. Doris

**Happy Birthday this week:** Chase Rothenburger, Paule Bertholet, Don Paulow, Dylana Flath

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## FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

37 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 a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very

dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy 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: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on 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."

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:6-11

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised

Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-45

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." 11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 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 on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the

resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”<sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

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

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because 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 looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in 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 Jesus did, believed in him.

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