

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Death Stinks?

April 5 & 6, 2014

### AS WE GATHER

Death stinks. We are reminded that death literally stinks in today's Gospel when Martha objects to opening her brother Lazarus's tomb because there would be an odor. Death also "stinks," however, in another very real way. Death "stinks" because our Lord did not intend for us, His creation, to die. Yet, since the time of Adam and Eve's first sin, death is a rotten part of living in this fallen world. That is why Jesus' proclamation of Himself as "the resurrection and the life" is so important. Death could not hold Lazarus. Death could not hold Jesus. Death cannot hold you. On the Last Day, Jesus will call you out from the nasty grave to enter eternal life. We sing of that great release from our tomb saying, Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me; Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me. Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence. *LSB 490:1*

### WELCOME

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."  
John 10:11*

### FELLOWSHIP GREETING

+ PREPARATION +

### OPENING HYMN #650 "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling In the holiest realms of light;  
Holy Spirit, ever brooding O'er a world of gloom and night;  
Holy Spirit, ever raising Those of earth to thrones on high;  
Living, life-imparting Spirit, You we praise and magnify.

Holy Spirit, ever living As the Church's very life;  
Holy Spirit, ever striving Through us in a ceaseless strife;  
Holy Spirit, ever forming In the Church the mind of Christ:  
You we praise with endless worship For Your gifts and fruits unpriced.

Holy Spirit, ever working Through the church's ministry;  
Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving, Setting captive sinners free;  
Holy Spirit, ever binding Age to age and soul to soul In communion never ending,  
You we worship and extol.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

**People: O Lord, hear my voice!**

Pastor: Let your ears be attentive

**People: to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

### LENTEN LITANY

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

### HYMN #418 "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and You won; Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust In God's eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves. Since we have known God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns, We join in heaven's praise.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

**People: O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor: But with you there is forgiveness,

**People: That you may be feared.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: In your Word you warn, "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God".  
We confess that we have lived in the flesh and have set our minds and  
hearts on the things of the flesh. In living in the flesh, we have done the**

**opposite of what pleases you. We have put ourselves and our own sinful desires ahead of you. We have become occupied with satisfying our wants and have ignored the needs of others. For this, forgive us. Renew us so that we may not live according to the flesh, but in the Spirit. Amen.**

Pastor: “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.” Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection, you have the gift of the Holy Spirit, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, by your great goodness mercifully look upon your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**+ WORD +**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 37:1–14***

The hand of the Lord was upon 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. He 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. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “O Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I 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.’” So 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. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he

commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army. Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O 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. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I 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.’”

### **EPISTLE *Romans 8:1–11***

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. 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 through his Spirit, who lives in you.

(Rise)

### **HOLY GOSPEL *John 11:17–27, 38–53***

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he

dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "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." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 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." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 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." Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation. Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

(Be seated)

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### SERMON HYMN #433 "Glory Be to Jesus"

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the life blood From His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal In that blood I find; Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

Lift we, the, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

### SERMON

**"Death Stinks!"**

John 11:17-17, 38-53

(Rise)

**NICENE CREED** (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:*

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

*At the conclusion to the prayers:*

Pastor: . . . for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**+ SACRAMENT +**

### WORDS OF OUR LORD

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

### AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb, of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

### **HYMN #610 “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”**

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.  
Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle’s strife;  
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

### **HYMN #611 “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”**

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die  
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus’ love, Higher than the heavens above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!  
Love that found me wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,  
Peace that flows from sin forgiven, Joy that lifts the soul to heaven,  
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.  
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your word!  
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

### **HYMN #628 “Your Table I Approach”**

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

**People: and in His word I hope;**

Pastor: My soul waits for the Lord

**People: more than watchmen for the morning,**

**All: more than watchmen for the morning.**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #818**

**“In Thee is Gladness”**

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trust Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining, Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;  
All heav'n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness,  
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Russell Hurst, Jim Adams, Marc Stefanic
Acolytes	Thomas Quigley, Noah Zimmermann, Abigail Fellenbaum
Bell Choir Director	Jan Schneider
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller