



Church of the Ascension

March 29, 2020

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

To find the video, go to YouTube and search for Ascension Lakewood

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the God of our salvation:
Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from Ezekiel

37:1-14

Some time later, I felt the LORD's power take control of me, and his Spirit carried me to a valley full of bones. The LORD showed me all around, and everywhere I looked I saw bones that were dried out. He said, "Ezekiel, son of man, can these bones come back to life?"

I replied, "LORD God, only you can answer that."

He then told me to say:

Dry bones, listen to what the LORD is saying to you, "I, the LORD God, will put breath in you, and once again you will live. I will wrap you with muscles and skin and breathe life into you. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

I did what the LORD said, but before I finished speaking, I heard a rattling noise. The bones were coming together! I saw muscles and skin cover the bones, but they had no life in them.

The LORD said:

Ezekiel, now say to the wind, "The LORD God commands you to blow from every direction and to breathe life into these dead bodies, so they can live again."

As soon as I said this, the wind blew among the bodies, and they came back to life! They all stood up, and there were enough to make a large army.

The LORD said:

Ezekiel, the people of Israel are like dead bones. They complain that they are dried up and that they have no hope for the future. So tell them, “I, the LORD God, promise to open your graves and set you free. I will bring you back to Israel, and when that happens, you will realize that I am the LORD. My Spirit will give you breath, and you will live again. I will bring you home, and you will know that I have kept my promise. I, the LORD, have spoken.”

A Reading from John

11:1-45

A man by the name of Lazarus was sick in the village of Bethany. He had two sisters, Mary and Martha. This was the same Mary who later poured perfume on the Lord’s head and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent a message to the Lord and told him that his good friend Lazarus was sick.

When Jesus heard this, he said, “His sickness won’t end in death. It will bring glory to God and his Son.”

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and brother. But he stayed where he was for two more days. Then he said to his disciples, “Now we will go back to Judea.”

“Teacher,” they said, “the people there want to stone you to death! Why do you want to go back?”

Jesus answered, “Aren’t there twelve hours in each day? If you walk during the day, you will have light from the sun, and you won’t stumble. But if you walk during the night, you will stumble, because you don’t have any light.” Then he told them, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, and I am going there to wake him up.”

They replied, “Lord, if he is asleep, he will get better.” Jesus really meant that Lazarus was dead, but they thought he was talking only about sleep.

Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead! I am glad that I wasn’t there, because now you will have a chance to put your faith in me. Let’s go to him.”

Thomas, whose nickname was “Twin,” said to the other disciples, “Come on. Let’s go, so we can die with him.”

When Jesus got to Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many people had come from the city to comfort Martha and Mary because their brother had died.

When Martha heard that Jesus had arrived, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. Yet even now I know that God will do anything you ask.”

Jesus told her, “Your brother will live again!”

Martha answered, “I know that he will be raised to life on the last day, when all the dead are raised.”

Jesus then said, “I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never really die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord!” she replied. “I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one we hoped would come into the world.”

After Martha said this, she went and privately said to her sister Mary, “The Teacher is here, and he wants to see you.” As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went out to Jesus. He was still outside the village where Martha had gone to meet him. Many people had come to comfort Mary, and when they saw her quickly leave the house, they thought she was going out to the tomb to cry. So they followed her.

Mary went to where Jesus was. Then as soon as she saw him, she knelt at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw that Mary and the people with her were crying, he was terribly upset and asked, “Where have you put his body?”

They replied, “Lord, come and you will see.”

Jesus started crying, and the people said, “See how much he loved Lazarus.”

Some of them said, “He gives sight to the blind. Why couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

Jesus was still terribly upset. So he went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone rolled against the entrance. Then he told the people to roll the stone away. But Martha said, “Lord, you know that Lazarus has been dead four days, and there will be a bad smell.”

Jesus replied, “Didn’t I tell you that if you had faith, you would see the glory of God?”

After the stone had been rolled aside, Jesus looked up toward heaven and prayed, “Father, I thank you for answering my prayer. I know that you always answer my prayers. But I said this, so that the people here would believe that you sent me.”

When Jesus had finished praying, he shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” The man who had been dead came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of burial cloth, and a cloth covered his face.

Jesus then told the people, “Untie him and let him go.”

Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw the things that Jesus did, and they put their faith in him.

The Sermon

Rev. Vincent Black

Let us pray.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Good and gracious God, we pray for all who have yet to know of your love and mercy. May the Church of the Ascension be so inspired by your Holy Spirit that it may serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel for all people. Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge and love of you as we strive to use all that we have and all that we are to follow and imitate your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We go forth in the name of Christ.

Please keep these people in your prayers today and all week long:

Our Spiritual Leaders:

+Michael -our Presiding Bishop; +Mark -our Bishop;
+Bill, and +Arthur -our Assisting Bishops;
+Vincent -our Priest; Noah -our seminarian

Those for whom prayers have been requested:

Doug Amberman
Martha Amer
Bobby Armbrust
Debbie Armbrust
Ferdinand Afumbom
Endrit Bala
Cathy Barbato
Raymond Black
Teddi Black
Carolyn Borsini
Trad Burns
Larry Carey
Tom Clark
Steve Conrad
Karen Cooper
Linda Cramer
Carol Culp
Nancy Dittebrand
Joe Farkas
Don Farrell
Anne Ferguson
Bill Fickinger
Ella Jane Fowerbaugh
Linda Gardner
Martha Hartman
Pat Hendy
Diane Jackson
Lisa Jones
Beverly Kliber
Kristen Kowalsick
Delores Kulunigan

Barbara Kutza
Susan Latham
Marilyn Little
June Madden
MaryAnne
Lois Melchoire
David Meschter
Mueller family
Nancy Murphy
Mike Neill
Corey Niebes
Sabrina Pewitt
Mursay Pratt
Laine O'Donnell
Keith Robinson
Miriam Schantz
Thomas Scheidecker
Delores Schew
Pat Scheetz
Rachel Sexton
Roselle Sgambellone
Naomi Singer
Wendi Stemple
Jonathan Tallman
Corky Thacker
Jeanette Triplet
Bob Tremlin
Mimi Verberg
Betty Weber
Brenda & Jaimie Wells
Bill Wofford

Those We Know in the Military

Bill Bobowicz
Stephen Cline
Jason Hildebrandt
McDowell (Mac) Jones

Sydney Kline
Jason Strater
Brendon

The Departed

Rich Cottone
Bill Hopple
Steve Klonowski
Bonnie O'Donnell

Ron Oleksiak
Victor Ruggiero
Ed Watts

To participate in a virtual service of Holy Communion and other forms of on-line prayer I encourage you to visit The Episcopal National Cathedral.

[Your Online Cathedral - Washington National Cathedral](#)

Holy Eucharist is at 11:15am

Trinity Cathedral is live streaming Holy Eucharist at 10am

[Trinity Episcopal Cathedral – The Episcopal Church in Downtown Cleveland](#)

Pledges and offerings to the Church.

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

or

YOU CAN USE PLASTIC TO DONATE TO THE CHURCH!

At theascensionshop.com you can use plastic to donate to the church. Credit and debit cards are accepted. One time, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly contributions can be entered. All contributions will show on your annual statement. Just take a look! (With thanks to theascensionshop creator Michael Crowdes; send questions to crowdes@gmail.com.)

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