



FIFTH MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

March 18, 2026

As We Gather

Tonight's reading from Ezekiel

brings us into a valley where hope

appears spent and life absent. The Song of Restoration speaks to weariness that lasts too long and faith that feels thin. God does not ask His people to revive themselves. He speaks, He breathes, and He raises the dead. In this service, we listen again for the Word that restores and the Spirit who gives life in the night.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

Hymn **O Perfect Life of Love (LSB 452)** *sts. 1, 5–7*

Opening Sentences

Psalm 143:1, 5, 10

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done;

C **I ponder the work of Your hands.**

P Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God!

C **Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

Psalm

Psalm 121

P *I lift up my eyes to the hills.*

From where does my help come?

*My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

He will not let your foot be moved;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

C Behold, He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

P *The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.*

C The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

First Reading

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. 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. And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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.”

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. 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. Then he said to me, “Prophecy 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.” 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.

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 clean cut off.’ 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. And you shall know that I am the LORD,

when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 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.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 8:10–11

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

John 11:32–44

Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 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.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 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.” When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” 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.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (LSB 439) *st. 9*

Sermon Series: Songs in the Night

Sermon Title: The Song of Restoration *Ezekiel 37:1-14;*

Psalms 27

Offering On My Heart Imprint Your Image (LSB 422)

1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,

Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856-1921, alt.

Text: Public domain

Prayers

P Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.

C **Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.**

P Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.

C **Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.**

P Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.

C **Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.**

- P** Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.
- C** **Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.**
- P** Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.
- C** **Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.**
- P** Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.
- C** **Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul.
- C** **Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.**
- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
- C** **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**



✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

We follow the liturgy on Pages 194-202 in the hymnal.

Preface *LSB 194*

Proper Preface

Sanctus *LSB 195*

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei *LSB 198*

Distribution Hymns

Go to Dark Gethsemane (LSB 436)
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (LSB 437)

Sit

Lord's Supper Dismissal

P Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are ✠ forgiven you.

G Amen.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Salutation *LSB 201*

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

Benediction *LSB 202*

Closing Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer (LSB 918)

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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