

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH -- THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT -- MARCH 26, 2023

READINGS: EZEKIEL 37:1-14; PSALM 130; ROMANS 8:6-11; JOHN 11:1-45

WE WELCOME CAROLYN THIBIDEAU AS OUR ORGANIST THIS MORNING; AND STEPHANIE DEAN, SOPRANO

Organ: Choral Prelude on "I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ" -- J.S. Bach

Hymn 474, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

THE WORD OF GOD

Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins. God's mercy endures for ever.

As we prepare to worship, let us call to mind our sins, and the infinite mercy of God. (*silence*)

Almighty God; Long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart, my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Musical score for the first part of the hymn. It features a Cantor part and an All part. The Cantor part is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The All part is written on two staves, with a treble clef for the upper voice and a bass clef for the lower voice. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Musical score for the second part of the hymn. It features a Cantor part and an All part. The Cantor part is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The All part is written on two staves, with a treble clef for the upper voice and a bass clef for the lower voice. The lyrics are: Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.

Musical score for the third part of the hymn. It features a Cantor part and an All part. The Cantor part is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The All part is written on two staves, with a treble clef for the upper voice and a bass clef for the lower voice. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

May God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

In our first reading the prophet has a vision of the bones of a dead and hopeless people being restored to new life in their homeland. The Spirit of the Lord restores their spirit and breath, and they rise from death.

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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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." 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. 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. Then he said to me, "Prophecy 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." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. 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.' 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

In Psalm 130 the psalmist calls to the merciful Lord and waits for forgiveness and redemption. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing as indicated.



With the Lord there is mē-ry; with him there is plen-te-ous re - demp - tion.

Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. **R.** If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, O LORD, who could stand? For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared. **R.** I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. **R.** O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy; with him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **R.**

A Reading from Paul's Epistle to the Romans

In this lesson Paul draws a contrast between minds dominated by fleshly and worldly things and those in whom Christ lives and are set on the Spirit.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 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. But if Christ is in you, though 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 from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

all stand – Choir: Tract, Psalm 129, Tone II

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; it was their brother who was ill. The sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 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." After having heard that Lazarus was ill, and even though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and her brother, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples were afraid. "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 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. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." Not understanding, the disciples said, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." They thought that Jesus meant physical sleep, rather than a metaphor for what was to happen. So Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there when he died, so that you may believe. Now let us go to him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, saying, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Martha went back home to tell her sister. "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." Mary got up quickly and went to him. The Jews who were consoling Mary saw her get up and leave, so they followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to Jesus, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus saw her weeping and all those with her weeping and he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep, and the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha warned him. "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus replied, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Jesus looked towards heaven and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said, "Unbind him, and let him go." Upon seeing Lazarus and what Jesus had done, from then on the Jews who had come with Mary believed in him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

What do we believe?

I believe In God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Prayers are offered for the Church, the world; for all people in need or want, and for those who have died.

*The people are invited to offer aloud their own petitions and prayers. The response to the petitions: **Lord, have mercy.***

Holy Communion

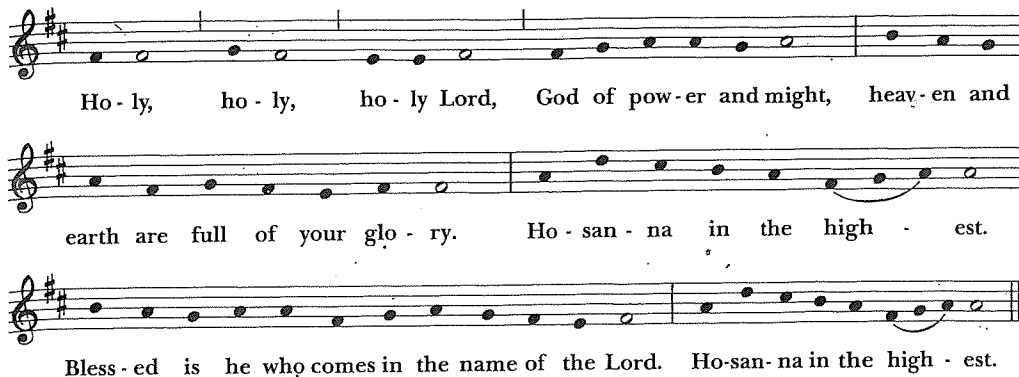
All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand; the wine by either sipping from the chalice or dipping the bread in the wine. Kindly let the celebrant know if you would prefer a blessing instead and in addition to receiving Communion.

Hymn 335, I Am The Bread of Life

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, and Lord's Prayer
After the breaking of the bread:*

May God's peace be with you always. **And also with you.**

Behold, the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are they who are called to his supper.

After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:

God of hope; In this eucharist we have tasted the promise of your heavenly banquet and the richness of eternal life. May we who bear witness to the death of your Son, also proclaim the glory of his resurrection, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us depart in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 598: Lord Christ, When First Thou Cam'st to Earth

Organ: Variations on the hymn tune, "Beautiful Savior" -- Dr. Allen Borton

We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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