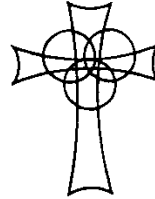


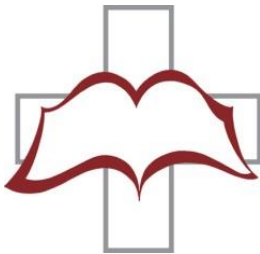
Then he said
to me,
"Prophesy
to these
Bones &
say to them,
Dry bones,
hear the word
of the
Lord!"
.
Ezekiel 37:4

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**The Sacred Season of Lent 2021
The Road Back to God**

**Midweek Lenten Devotions and Bible Study
The Sixth Wednesday of Lent
The Eve of the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord
March 24, 2021**

Service of the Word in the Season of Lent

✠ *Jesus, Mercy!* ✠

The Opening Versicles:

Psalms 51:15; 70:1; 31:14

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

- P** My trust is in You, O Lord.
- C** I have said, "You are my God."

- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

- P** ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- C** ⁹**Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**
- P** ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- C** ¹¹**Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
- P** ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- C** ¹³**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.**
- P** ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- C** ¹⁵**O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

¹The 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. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And 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."

⁷So 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. ⁸And 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. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, 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." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then 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.’ ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Scripture Study for the Day

The Road Back to God

A Journey through the Valley of Death:
Ezekiel’s Vision of the Dry Bones

The Prayers:

P With faith and love and in union with Christ, let us offer our prayers before the throne of grace.

Have mercy on Your people, for whom Your Son laid down His life:

C **Hear us, O Lord, for Your mercy is great.**

P Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations, and have pity on those torn apart by division:

C **Hear us, O Lord, for Your mercy is great.**

P Strengthen all who are persecuted for Your Name’s sake, and deliver them from evil:

C **Hear us, O Lord, for Your mercy is great.**

P Look in mercy upon all who suffer, and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:

C **Hear us, O Lord, for Your mercy is great.**

P Bring comfort to the dying, and gladden their hearts with the vision of Your glory:

C **Hear us, O Lord, for Your mercy is great.**

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, may we too come with them to glory everlasting:

C **Hear us, O Lord, for Your mercy is great.**

- P** Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered, to the mercy and protection of God, offering up to Him our prayers either silently or aloud.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer:

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Collect of the Week:

- P** 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.
C **Amen.**

The Collect for the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord:

- P** O Lord, as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel to the Virgin Mary, so by the message of His cross and passion bring us to the glory of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

The Collect for the Reading:

- P** O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam's children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

The Collect for the Lenten Season:

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; 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 Closing Prayer:

Anima Christi (14th Century)

- P** We pray:
- C** Soul of Christ, sanctify me,
Body of Christ, save me,
Blood of Christ, inebriate me,
Water from the side of Christ, wash me,
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me:
hide me within Your wounds
and never let me be separated from you.
From the wicked enemy defend me,
in the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to You,
so that with Your saints I may praise You
forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction:

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

If you were unable to send questions to Pastor Schiebel via messaging during the Facebook Live video, you can email your questions to him at trinity-elc-pastor@verizon.net.

Acknowledgments

Brief Service of the Word from Lutheran Service Book Agenda and from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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