



At the Grave... Death is Destroyed

March 29, 2020
5th Sunday in Lent
2nd Sunday of Covid-19

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
6550 Fairmont Blvd
Yorba Linda, CA, 92886

Gracelutheran.church / 714-779-2384

Gathering / Growing / Going - with the message of the grace of Jesus Christ.

LENT

5th Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020

The word **Lent** comes from an Old English word for Spring (“*lengten*,”). As the days **lengthen** and become brighter during this time of year, our focus on Jesus’ journey to the cross and empty tomb (which starts next Sunday) brighten our days and allow us to see God’s love more clearly and empower us to love more dearly. May God’s Word lead you cherish the One who came to...

To do battle for us:

Lent 1: In the wilderness...	the Devil is defeated
Lent 2: At the well...	Thirst is quenched
Lent 3: In the light...	Blindness is banished
Lent 4: From the throne...	Selfless serving springs
Today: At the grave...	Death is destroyed
April 5: Approaching Jerusalem...	as our humble king

(past sermons are archived on our web site: gracelutheran.church)



L: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L. Let us pray.

**C. As a father has compassion on his children, O God,
so gentle are you to those who fear you.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is your love for those who fear you.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our sin.
Remember how we are made, O God,
remember we are dust.
Heal our lives, renew our strength,
and crown us with your mercy,
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

*The name of the
triune God and the
sign of the cross
remind us of our
baptisms.*

L: God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. Amen.

Song- I heard the Voice of Jesus Say (338)

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down Your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, Weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, And he has made me glad.**

**2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one; Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in him.**

**3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto me; your morn shall rise And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

Ezekiel received his message from God in visions, this one telling him and us of the power of God to destroy death for his people.

The word "breath" in the Hebrew is also the word for wind or "Spirit."

The hand of the LORD was on 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. ²He 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. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make *breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I 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.'"

⁷So 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. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin 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 it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 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.¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I 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.'"

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:11-19

This continues a series of readings we started last week from this awesome chapter of the Bible: a chapter that reminds us that the Spirit who gives life allows us to live without the fear of death.

¹¹ 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 because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.



VERSE OF THE DAY

The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

HYMN OF THE DAY

POWER OF THE CROSS

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
Nailed to the cross of wood.

Oh to see the pain written on your face.
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought every evil deed.
Crowning your blood stain brow.

Refrain: This the power of the cross,
Christ became sin for us,
took the blame
bore the wrath
we stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the day light flees, now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
“Finished!” The victory cry.

Refrain

Oh to see my name written in the wounds,
For through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live.
Won through your selfless love.

This, the power of the cross:
Son of God slain for us.
What a love,
What a cost.
We stand forgiven at the cross.

¹⁷On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."



³⁸Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹"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."

⁴⁰Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I 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."

⁴³When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The 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."

⁴⁵Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

You are welcome
to mail your
offering in to
Grace or give
online through
our website,
gracelutheran.church

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**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.**

BLESSING and CLOSING HYMN

Abide With Me (#588:6,7)

**I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.**

**Hold thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**