

Lent 5

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Today we are reminded of the blessed promise that God brings life out of death. Whether it is breath to dead, brittle, dry bones or hope for those stuck in sorrow and despair, new life emerges by God’s mighty hand. Jesus demonstrates this power to those around him as he raises Lazarus from the dead after four long days. This miracle foreshadows his own impending death and resurrection.

THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14 **Valley of the Dry Bones**
God revealed through a vision to the prophet Ezekiel his promise to restore the decimated and exiled nation of Israel: a valley of dry bones was brought back to life. Ezekiel was then told to prophesy to Israel revealing God’s promise, and that, through God’s faithfulness, Israel would know that God is the Lord of life.

Psalm 130 **My Soul Waits for the Lord**
The psalmist cried from the depths of despair, acknowledging that although none are worthy to stand before the Lord, God is a merciful and forgiving Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11 **Life in the Spirit**
Paul contrasted life in the Spirit with living according to the flesh, which leads to death. He reminded the church in Rome that if the Spirit of God dwells in them through Jesus Christ, then just as Jesus was raised from the dead, so also would their mortal bodies be given resurrection life.

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45 (46-53) **Lazarus is Raised**
When Lazarus became ill and died, Jesus was days away from Bethany. When he finally arrived four days after his friend’s death, Jesus brought him back to life. This miraculous action amazed all those gathered around the tomb of Mary and Martha’s brother. When word of Jesus’ last and most extraordinary miracle reached the Pharisees, they realized they would not be able to control Jesus’ growing impact on the people, and thus they began to plot to have him killed.

Suggestions for the Sunday:
Liturgical Color: Purple
During the Season of Lent:
• Use the Kyrie.
• Omit the Hymn of Praise
• Use the Apostles’ Creed.
The Gospel story foreshadows Jesus’ own death and resurrection, even as it is the last straw for those who wanted Jesus to disappear from the scene. His raising of Lazarus from dead after four days (meaning it was way past time for a resuscitation) caused many to praise him and come to believe in him. God is able to do the impossible! As the angel said at the announcement of his birth, “With God all things are possible!” (Luke 1:37)

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
What Wondrous Love is This	385	---	543	666	254	254
Glory Be to Jesus	95	---	433	---	136	136
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	482	---	425	803	132	132
Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	559	---	528	886	30	30
Through the Night of Dark and Sorrow	355	---	---	327	---	---
In the Morning When I Rise (Give Me Jesus)	---	777	---	770	214	214
There is a Balm in Gilead	---	737	749	614	---	---
Jesus, Come! For We Invite You	---	648	---	312	---	---
O Christ, Our Hope	300	---	553	604	---	web
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less	294	---	575	596	293	293

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
Trading My Sorrows (CCLI# 2574653)
The Way (CCLI# 7023304)
God Will Make A Way (CCLI# 458620)
My Life is in You (CCLI# 17315)
Take My Life (CCLI# 1617154)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.