

March 29, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## A Matter of Life and Breath

You need good breath support for singing or playing a wind instrument. You need to focus on your breath when you practice meditation or yoga. You synchronize your breathing when you lift weights. Expectant parents learn breathing techniques at birthing classes.

Sometimes we are out of breath--from climbing the stairs, running to catch the bus, or chasing toddlers. Other times we may be out breath figuratively: out of energy, out of motivation, even out of faith. At these times our spirits are tired, worn out, or bitter.

Today's reading from Ezekiel takes place in a field of dry bones, an eerie valley of death and destruction. The nation of Israel is in exile. With little hope of a future, they are as good as dead. But the prophet announces hope as real as the resurrection. Breath comes from the four winds, enters the dry bones, and gives them life. God is the breath-giver and God is the breath itself. In the gospel, Mary and Martha are grieving the death of their brother, Lazarus. But Jesus calls him forth from the tomb: "Lazarus, come out!"

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Jesus is the very breath of God. As God breathes new life into us we are given a future. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, God calls to us this day: Come out of your tombs of despair. Come out of your tombs of bitterness and anger. Breathe in God's grace that accepts you as you are, fills you with life, and sends you into an out-of-breath world.

From the tomb of our baptism we share in the death and resurrection of Christ. So, take a deep breath. God gives us a future, a new beginning. But for now the present moment is all we have. Breathe in the gifts we receive in word and meal, music and silence, and in the assembly gathered for worship. Breathe!

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

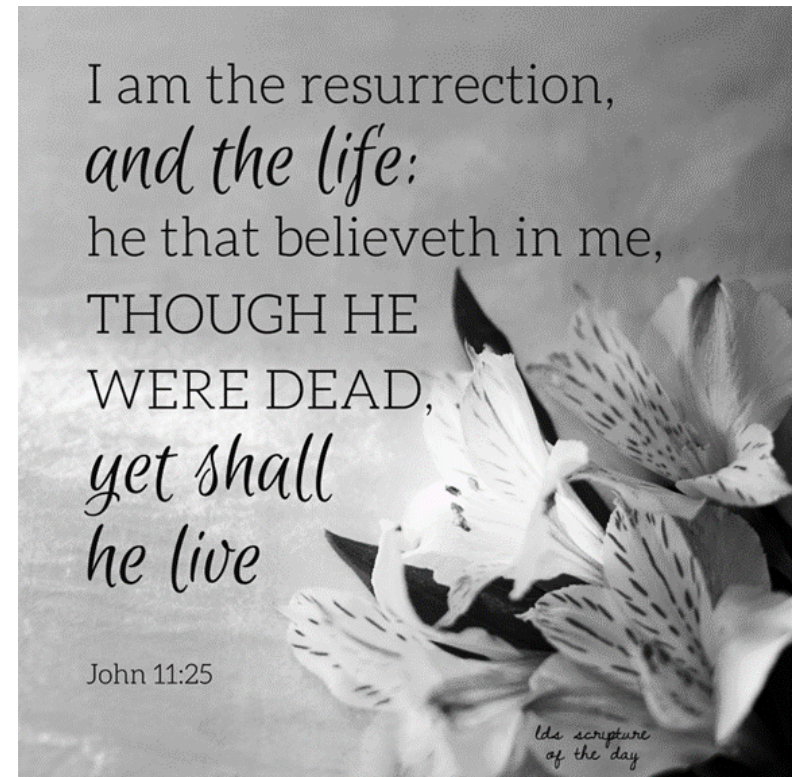
2471 Seaman Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43605  
419-691-7222

[office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

[www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director  
Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist  
Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



**Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community**

**March 29, 2020 - 7:45 am**

**March 29, 2020**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! If you are visiting, please sign the guest book near the main door in the Narthex.

We offer a traditional service and a celebration service, a joint effort between members of both services with special music and a message. Our Sunday schedule is:

7:45 am	Traditional Service
9:00 am	Sunday School
10:15 am	Celebration Service

A.W.E. Service: We also offer a contemporary worship service on the second Wednesday of the month beginning with a light supper at 5:30 pm.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:00 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft.

Children ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: The 7th grade class will meet at 9:00 am on Sundays in the catechism room next to the ladies restroom on the second floor of the Educational Building. Eighth grade class meets every other Sunday at 11:30 am in the lounge for a light lunch and class.

Nursery: Our nursery is in the church basement. The nursery is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table & a semi-private nursing area also are available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement. In the hallway, the ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for flowers for a Sunday, there is a sign up book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you may call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or in the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

## PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

**Please purchase full size items.**

dish soap	shampoo, child	toothbrush, child
paper towels	laundry soap	tampons
toilet paper	fabric softener sheets	sanitary pads
tissues	body lotion	band aids
deodorant	body soap	toothpaste, adult
shampoo, adult	toothbrush, adult	toothpaste, child
disposable razors		

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members. **If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month.** If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



**Dismissal**

P: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" No. 597  
Postlude Dr. Pattin & Dr. Pattin

\*\*\*\*\*

***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

**READER**

Lisa Anderson

**ACOLYTES**

Cieara & Kieara Vartorella

***ORDER OF WORSHIP – TRADITIONAL SERVICE***

Prelude Dr. Pattin & Dr. Pattin

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn "Lord God, We Praise You" No. 558

**Invocation**

P: In the name of the Father, and the (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us your own. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sins, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence for personal examination)*

P: Merciful God,

**C: forgive us. You sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

*(Everyone extends a greeting to those around them by saying:)*

***"The Peace of the Lord be with you."***

*(Passing of the Peace which concludes by singing the following)*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

**Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**The Hymn of Praise - Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

*(words printed below)*

Jesus keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;  
Free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.  
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;  
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.  
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;  
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

*(Please be seated)*

bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**Offering Prayer**

P: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer** *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Hear us, Lord.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**The Lord's Prayer** *(prayed by all)*

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 Blessing**

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

**C: We turn to the Lord for our life and hope.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you (+) peace.

**C: Amen.**

"Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>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." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### **Gospel Response (Spoken)**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

### SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"What Wondrous Love is This"

Pastor Rayl

No. 666

### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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.

The Offering

Dr. Pattin & Dr. Pattin

(Please stand)

### **Offering Response** – (Sung by the congregation)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

## **Announcements**

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

*Ezekiel's earlier vision of the glory of the Lord departing from the temple symbolizes Israel's defeat by Babylon and Israel's subsequent exile. Now, his vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving Spirit.*

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. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>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."

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>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.' <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM: Psalm 130**

*With the LORD there is mercy and plenteous redemption. (Ps. 130:6-7)*

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.

**<sup>2</sup>If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss,  
O LORD, who could stand?**

<sup>3</sup>For there is forgiveness with you;  
therefore you shall be feared.

**<sup>4</sup>I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him;  
in his word is my hope.**

<sup>5</sup>My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

**‘O Israel, wait for the LORD,  
for with the LORD there is mercy;**

<sup>7</sup>with him there is plenteous redemption,  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11**

*Paul contrasts two ways of living. The unspiritual life may seek to please God but cannot do so, for it is marked by self-reliance. The spiritual life begins with our justification by God and continues in the power of the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead.*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Lenten Verse** (Please stand)

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**Gospel Acclamation (spoken)**

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 11.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

*The raising of Lazarus is presented as the last and greatest sign in John's gospel, revealing Jesus as the giver of life. But right after this, John makes clear that this sign also leads to the plan to execute Jesus.*

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

<sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>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."

<sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

<sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,