

March 26, 2023

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**

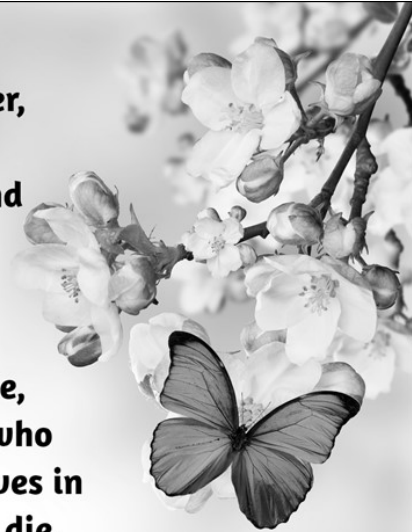
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician  
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister  
Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager



**Jesus said to her,  
"I am the  
resurrection and  
life. Whoever  
believes in me,  
though he die,  
yet shall he live,  
and everyone who  
lives and believes in  
me shall never die.  
Do you believe this?**

**John 11:25-26**

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

**March 26, 2023 - 10:30 am**

**March 26, 2023**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / 1st Year Catechism
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:30 am	2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com). Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the Youth Room area in the basement of the Educational Building.

Children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is 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 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 altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can 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.

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**2023 EASTER FLOWER SALE**  
SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



It's time to order flowers that will decorate the church on Easter morning, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The price is \$15.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth, or tulip. Fill out the order form below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. The final Sunday to order will be March 26<sup>th</sup>. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks out to: **First St. John Lutheran** and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

***Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.***

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Number of plants @ \$15.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Type of plant: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Living) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*“All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord’s table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest.”*

*(After all have received communion, please stand.)*

P: Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

**C: Amen.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray. O God, as a mother comforts her child, so you comfort your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us with this food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and proclaiming that the reign of God has come near; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Blessing**

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.**

Closing Hymn     *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*             No. 632

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude   Dr. Pattin

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## ***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE***

### **ELDERS**

Mike Winslow, Darold Henninger

### **SOUND BOARD**

Mark Ackerman

## ***ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am***

Prelude   Dr. Pattin  
Ringing of the Bell             *(Please stand)*

Opening Hymn             *“Rejoice, for Christ is King!”*             No. 430

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: While we still were sinners, Christ died for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**C: have mercy on us.**

P: For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:  
**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:  
**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:  
**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:  
**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:  
**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:  
**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### Passing of the Peace

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say: "Peace be with you."*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again**

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### The Lord's Prayer

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.

### Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast.

**C: Lord, with thankful hearts we come.**

### The Communion (distribution will be continuous)

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*

Refrain  
Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -  
ev - er and ev - er. | Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O  
God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O  
Rul - er of all the na - tions. Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and  
sing the glo - ry of your name? | Refrain  
Sal - va - tion be - longs to our  
God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.  
2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

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.

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

P: God in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Please be seated)*

**The Offering**

Dr. Pattin

**Offertory Music**

*(Please stand)*

**Offering Prayer**

P: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is good to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.



**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.**

**Announcements**

**PSALM: Psalm 130**

*For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. (Ps. 130:7)*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup> **Lord, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**

<sup>3</sup> If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
 Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **But there is forgiveness with you,  
 so that you may be revered.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,  
 and in his word I hope;

<sup>6</sup> **my soul waits for the Lord  
 more than those who watch for the morning,  
 more than those who watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
 and with him is great power to redeem.

<sup>8</sup> **It is he who will redeem Israel  
 from all its iniquities.**

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## Lenten Verse



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 Announcement

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, "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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON  
Sermon Hymn

*"Healer of Our Every Ill"*

Pastor Rayl  
No. 612

*(Please stand)*

## Apostles' Creed

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