

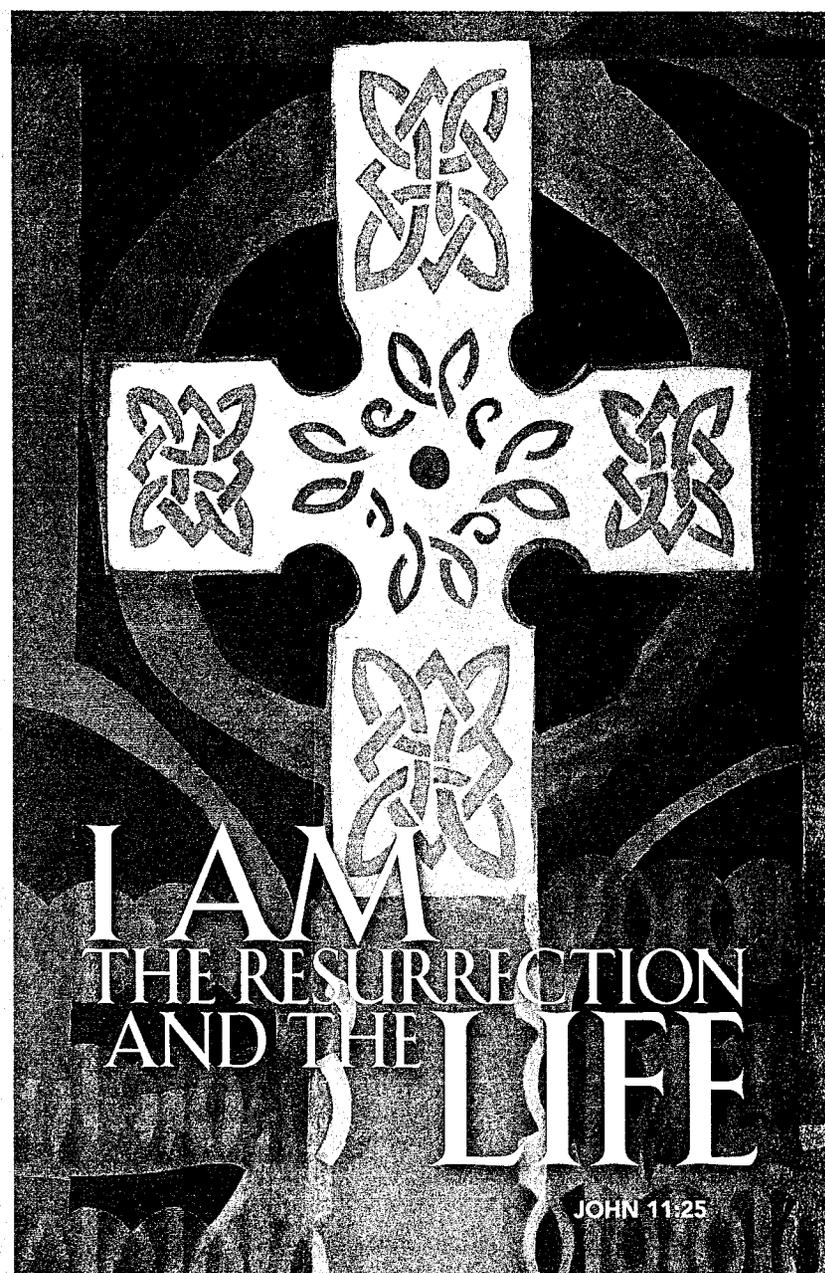
Can These Bones Live?

Before it is anything else, today's gospel is an up-close, deeply personal story of grief. Even the movements seem familiar: Jesus is on the way, then present to each sister. At last, he stands outside the tomb of his friend who has died, and whom the community mourns.

In today's first reading, we are swept up with Ezekiel and deposited into a wilderness valley full of dry, dead bones. In the valley, God asks Ezekiel, "Mortal, can these bones live?" (Ezek. 37:3). Of Lazarus in our gospel reading for today, we, like Ezekiel, might also respond: "O Lord God, you know." How can dry bones come to life? And how could a dead man ever possibly live again? Indeed, we might wonder if it will be enough, ever *could* be enough, that Jesus is "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). At the same time, we easily understand and echo Martha and Mary, who were both accusing angrily and confessing hopefully when they said, "Lord, if you had been here . . ." (John 11:21, 32).

As John tells it, Lazarus has been in the tomb four days by the time Jesus arrives. By then the whole village is awash in grief. When Jesus weeps too, they are amazed at his loving devotion: here is a strong sign of connection, a visible reminder that Jesus is truly present *among* human community, not *above* it. In the end, Jesus does what we could never imagine was even a remote possibility. He calls to the one entombed; he summons life, like the Spirit blowing over the valley in Ezekiel. God is up to something! Here, a sign of signs: God is making all things new.

New life is emerging from the tombs of our world and from the shadowed corners of our hearts. May Jesus' resurrecting power be felt deep in our own bones!





*In Church be **Thoughtful**, be **Silent**, be **Reverent**, for this is the house of God.
Before the Service, speak to the Lord; During the Service, let the Lord speak to you;
After the Service, speak to one another.*

THE GATHERING Setting IV

Pre-Service Music

The Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

P. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Most merciful God,

C. we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

C. Amen.

P. Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

The Congregation faces the Processional Cross

The Entrance Hymn

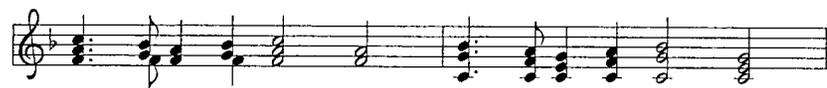
Dearest Jesus at Your Word

ELW 520

The Apostolic 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.**

The Kyrie



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

THE WORD



The Prayer of the Day

Celebrate

The First Lesson *(Celebrate)*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Psalm

Psalm 130

Celebrate

The Second Lesson *(Celebrate)*

Romans 8:6-11

The 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.

The Holy Gospel *(Celebrate)*

John 11:1-45

P. The holy gospel according to St. John

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel is proclaimed.

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Ronald M. Klose

The Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

ELW 759

Apostles Creed

C. 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 Prayers

Celebrate

The Greeting of Peace

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.



The Offering

The Anthem

The Offertory

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.

The Offertory Prayer

C. Amen

THE EUCHARISTIC MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al- so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The Proper Preface

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The Eucharist Prayer

P. Holy God, Mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.....we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. (Sung)

P. Therefore, O God with the bread and cup we remember the life our Lord....the great and promised feast.

C. Amen. Come Lord Jesus. (Spoken)

P. Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share...with all your saints in light.

C. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. (Spoken)

P. Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite...as victorious Lord of all.

☩ Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men

The Lord's Prayer

Communion P. The Gifts of God, for the children of God.

C. Thanks be to God.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

The Agnus Dei

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - - - men.

The Communion Hymns

ELW 614, 608, 332, 452

The Blessing P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C. Amen**

The Canticle Hymn

Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus

ELW 501

The Post Communion Prayer

P. Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

THE SENDING

The Benediction

The Recessional Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

The Dismissal

Post-Service Music