

MARCH 29, 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



The resurrection means new life now.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of dry bones
Tuesday	Romans 8:6-11	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Romans 8:12-27	Wonderful future of God's people
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:1-15	Treasure in clay jars
Friday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 130	Trusting the Lord in times of trouble
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of life and hope, we thank you for the promise of the resurrection and the power it brings to us each day through Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this meal we are strengthened to wait for you with faith and hope through Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of life free you from all burdens and give you peace.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I Heard the Voice of
Jesus Say*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about something you are looking forward to doing in the future.
- How does thinking about a future moment impact your life today?
- Both Ezekiel 37 and Jesus in John 11 talk about God's power to give life. How does the promise of the resurrection and God's power to give life influence you today?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 11:1-45.

With the story of the raising of Lazarus we have Jesus making clear that Jesus is not only the source of "the resurrection on the last day" (v. 24), but the source of life now. Jesus does not just say he is the resurrection. He says, "I am the resurrection and the life" (v. 25). In this story we gain understanding of what it means that Jesus is the "Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world" (v. 27). The future hope of the resurrections is so important and so real that it changes our life in the present. Even though Jesus weeps with his friends (v. 35), grief does not control his—or our—life. Our lives are to be freed from the daily powers of sin and death. "Unbind him and let him go" (v. 44) is the message for us, too. Jesus comes to us when our burdens are great to unbind us and set us free. Jesus says, "[E]veryone who lives and believes in me will never die" (v. 26). How does Jesus' resurrection make a difference in your life today? How does faith in Jesus impact your priorities, your values, your relationships?

Pray: **God of resurrection promise, remind us of the new life we are given each day through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Knowing one is nearing the end of their life is difficult for the person and for family and loved ones. As one draws closer to death we can be comforted to know of the resurrection and new life. This does not mean it will be easy. Jesus gives all who believe in him the promise of eternal life. Do you know of someone who has a loved one in the final stages of life? Is there a way you can support them through listening, prayer, meals, or household help?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the fifth week in Lent, light five of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) has been introduced as a way to pray. This week use this acronym as a guide for prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, I praise you for . . . , Forgive me for . . . , I thank you for . . . , I pray for (name of people or situations) . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org