

Fifth Sunday in Lent—Judica

ORDER OF MATINS

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Opening Versicle

Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1 with Gloria Patri

Verse: O Lord, open my lips.

Response: And my mouth will declare Your praise

Verse: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Response: Make haste to help me, O God.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our Salvation.**

PSALMODY

Verse: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Response: O come, let us worship Him.

VENITE

Psalm 95:1-7

**O come let us sing to the Lord
Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise Him with songs of praise.
For the Lord is a great God
And a great King above all gods.
The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
The strength of the hills is His also.
The sea is His, for He made it;
And His hand formed the dry land.
Oh, come let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.
For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture
And the sheep of His hand.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and will be; forever. Amen.**

Verse: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Response: O come, let us worship Him.

Psalm 130 (ESV)

My Soul Waits for the Lord

A Song of Ascents.

130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

² **O Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.**

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

⁶ **my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.

⁸ **And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now,
And ever shall be; world without end. Amen.**

OFFICE HYMN LSB #543

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

1. What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great I AM.
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (ESV) *The Valley of Dry Bones*

37 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley;^[a] it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath^[b] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon 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."

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling,^[c] and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin

had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

Versicle: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Romans 8:1-11 (ESV) *Life in the Spirit*

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Versicle: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

John 11:1-53 (ESV)

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

Versicle: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

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RESPONSORY for Lent:

Antiphon: We have an advocate with the Father;
Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

**Response: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven
and whose sin is put away.**

Antiphon: We have an advocate with the Father;
Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION & SERMON

“Life to Your Mortal Bodies through His Spirit Who Dwells in You”

Psalms 116:1-4 (ESV) *I Love the Lord*

116 I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

²Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

³The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴Then I called on the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”

⁸For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;

¹⁵Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints.

I agree with Saint Martin of Eisleben. Doctor Luther is known for his belief. He died believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen. And though his body is now dead, yet, shall he live. By the power of God the Father almighty who made heaven and earth.

And I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Not only was this true for Luther, but also for Paul of Tarsus a millennium and a half earlier. Paul posed a question and answer in his letter to the Romans, chapter 7. “Who shall deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Paul continues his encouragement in chapter 8 to encourage fellow believers in Rome, by the Spirit of Christ. ¹“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

Six centuries before the Christ, the prophet Ezekiel was in captivity along with all the company of Jerusalem. Death and exile came in by the hands of the Babylonians.

The people of God were carried off, sacked, depleted, and exhausted. Carried out to the valley by the hand of the LORD, Ezekiel is asked, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And he answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ... “Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people.” “And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land.” He did so bodily.

Closer to Paul’s day, Jesus was walking with his disciples towards Jerusalem. The village of Bethany was on the way. You would think that Jesus would show urgency to get to the village of his friend Lazarus. Lazarus was deathly ill. Like a code blue, he needs a crash cart. Too late, Lazarus is dead. Ambulances go away. Time for the funeral hearse. No more coughin’; Lazarus needs a coffin. Actually they will

wrap the body with oil and spice and lay it in a tomb. The stone will seal the deal. Lazarus has been dead four days; Jesus wept; and then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" "Loose Him and let him go."

The Verse for today encourages us to believe and live in Christ Jesus. Though he die, yet shall he live! Is the "he" who is dying and living Christ Jesus; or, is the "he" me? Answer: "Yes, both Christ and I through His Spirit who dwells in me."

In Romans 6:4-6 we confess our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The Revelation to John chapter 20:4.5 calls this the "first resurrection," for the baptized have Christ as their Head throughout their walk in this life. The rest are those who came by faith in Christ before the reign of Christ from His baptism to His Ascension. How comforting then is God's Word to the Romans, Chapter 8, ¹¹"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

CANTICLE: "Te Deum"

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**We praise You O God, we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
All the earth now worships You, the Father Everlasting.
To You all the angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein;
To You cherubim and seraphim continually do cry;
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles praise You
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You;
The noble army of martyrs praise You;
The holy Church though all the world does acknowledge You;
The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable true and only Son,
Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.
You are the King of Glory, O Christ.
You are the everlasting Son of the Father.
When You took upon Yourself to deliver man;
You humbled Yourself to be born of a virgin.
When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You sit at the right hand of God
In the glory of the Father.
We believe that you shall come**

To be our judge.

**We therefore pray You to help Your servants,
Whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with Your saints
In glory everlasting.
O Lord, save Your people and bless Your heritage.
Govern them and lift them up forever.
Day by day we magnify You,
And we worship Your name forever and ever.
Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin,
O Lord have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us,
O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.
O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be confounded.**

The Offering—*Send to your house of worship*

PRAYER

Kyrie Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy

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.

Verse: O Lord hear my prayer

Response: And let my cry come to You.

Collects for the Day:

Almighty God, by Your great goodness, mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your Almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Be with our defenders, law enforcement and first responders. Support them in times of battle, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in Your mercy look on those whose increasing years bring them weakness, anxiety, distress or loneliness. Grant that they may always know care and respect, concern and understanding. Grant them willing hearts to accept help and, as their strength wanes, increase their faith with the constant assurance of Your love through Jesus Christ, their Savior.

Collect for Grace:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all of our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS

Verse: Let us bless the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and
The love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all.
Amen.

Office Hymn LSB #430 "*My Song Is Love Unknown*" Samuel Crossman

1 My song is love unknown,
 My Savior's love to me;
 Love to the loveless shown,
 That they might lovely be.
 O who am I,
 That for my sake
 My Lord should take
 Frail flesh, and die?

2 He came from His blest throne
 Salvation to bestow;
 But men made strange, and none
 The longed-for Christ would know:
 But oh, my Friend,
 My Friend indeed,
 Who at my need
 His life did spend.

3 Sometimes they strew His way,
 And His sweet praises sing;
 Resounding all the day
 Hosannas to their King:
 Then "Crucify!"
 Is all their breath,
 And for His death
 They thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
 What makes this rage and spite?
 He made the lame to run,
 He gave the blind their sight.
 Sweet injuries!
 Yet they at these
 Themselves displease
 And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have
 My dear Lord made away;
 A murderer they save,
 The Prince of life they slay.
 Yet cheerful He
 To suffering goes,
 That He His foes
 From thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death, no friendly tomb,
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was His home;
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
 No story so divine;
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like Thine.
 This is my Friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend.