

Pastor's Bible Class

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

Hymn 420 "Christ, the Life of All the Living"



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
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Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

1. What do we learn in verse about the nature of Ezekiel's experience from the words "in the Spirit"?
2. Ezekiel prophecies before, during, and after the destruction of Jerusalem and her temple by the Babylonians. In fact, he writes from captivity. Why is this background information important to know as we study Ezekiel's vision in today's text?

3. Explain the significance of the phrase “and behold, they were very dry” at the end of verse 2.
4. The unique means by which God brings life to the dry bones is important. What means does God use to bring life? See verse 4.
5. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word “ruwach” is translated “spirit” 232 times, “wind” 92 times, and “breath” 27 times. In this text, we see the same Hebrew word “ruwach” used for each of these terms. Why is the multiple use of “ruwach” so important to the meaning of this reading? And what does this tell us about God’s command to prophecy?

Read John 11:1-53

6. What do we learn about Lazarus in verse 3? What does verse 19 tell us about Lazarus?
7. What does Jesus’ statement in verse 4 tell us about His miracles?
8. How are we to understand the apparent contradiction in verses 5 and 6?
9. What do we learn from the disciples’ questioning Jesus’ decision to return to Judea?
10. How are we to understand the statement Thomas makes in verse 16?
11. Just as the bones in Ezekiel’s vision were “very dry,” Lazarus was very dead. Why is the length of his time in the tomb noted in John’s account?
12. Throughout this reading, the world’s definition of death is challenged. How does this text help you understand the term death from a Christian perspective? See verses 25-27.
13. What is the significance of John 11:35?
14. What is the means through which Lazarus is raised from the dead? Look also at the means Jesus will use to raise you from the dead in I Thessalonians 4:16.
15. Read about the response of the Jews to this miracle of miracles in verses 45-53. What strikes you about the prophecy of Caiaphas?

Devotional Thought from “The Lutheran Study Bible”

By raising Lazarus, Jesus reveals God’s glory and that He is truly the resurrection and the life. Apart from faith in Christ, the fear of death brings hopelessness and despair. Believers, however, can eagerly look forward to the day when Jesus will call them from their graves to live with Him forever (The Lutheran Study Bible, 1804).

Closing Prayer

O God of life, when death takes one whom I love, use the promise of the resurrection to turn my sorrow into joy. Amen.