

Year A; Fifth Sunday in Lent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for March 26, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 130
- Romans 8:6-11
- John 11:1-45

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 130*)

One: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

All: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

One: We wait for the LORD, our souls wait, and in his word we hope;

All: our souls wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

One: Hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

All: It is he who will redeem us from all our iniquities. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Ezekiel 37*)

The prophet Ezekiel was set down in a valley full of very dry bones in a time that seemed hopeless to the Israelites in exile. The LORD asked Ezekiel, "Son of man, can these bones live?" In the vision, the bones began to rattle, they came together: bone to bone, sinews appeared, flesh was added, skin covered them, and breath was given. In time, the Israelites would return from exile. Let us confess when we have seen only hopelessness before the God of hope.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*30 seconds*)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Ezekiel 37*)

Almighty God, we live in a world where hope can sometimes be hard to find. Violence, war, death, and crimes of various sorts can seem to be all around us. Some of us may struggle intently with financial challenges, health problems, unreconciled relationships, and more. We confess that we can fail to see that your power surpasses anything that may be before us. Help us to look to you and your church to bring hope and to offer solutions. May we be willing agents in your work — ready to prophesy your power and your greater plan in all circumstances. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who overcame sin and death that we might be reconciled and live eternal and abundant life. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

SUMMARY OF THE LAW (*from Matthew 22*)

Our Lord Jesus said: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Psalm 130*)

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Romans 8*)

Faithful God, in our own power, we could only set our minds on the flesh, and this is death. Not being satisfied with this, through your Son, you gave us the ability to set our mind on the Spirit that is life and peace. We could move from hostility to you to having your very Spirit dwell within us. With thanksgiving, we offer these tithes for the work of your church. Amen.

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