

Pastor's Bible Class

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

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'ings,
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 1 about the nature of Ezekiel's experience from the words "in the Spirit"?
2. Ezekiel prophesies before, during, and after the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. In fact, he writes as one who is in captivity. Why is this background information important to know as we study Ezekiel's vision?
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. How does God bring life to the bones? See verse 4. Why is this important?
5. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word “ruwach” is translated “spirit” 232 times, “wind” 92 times, and “breath” 27 times. In this text [Ezekiel 37:1-14] the same Hebrew word “ruwach” is used for each of the above terms. Why is the multiple use of “ruwach” so important in understanding the meaning of this reading? And what does this tell us about God’s command to prophesy?

Read John 11:1-53

6. What do we learn about Lazarus in verse 3? What do we also learn about Lazarus from verse 19?
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 of 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 story, the world’s definition of death is challenged. How does the story help you understand what death means to a Christian? See verses 25-27.
13. Why do you think John 11:35 is included in this story?
14. How does Jesus raise Lazarus 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. Think about the prophecy of Caiaphas in verses 49-50. What do you think he means? How might Christians understand his words?

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.