

— ST. MICHAEL'S — EPISCOPAL CHURCH



March 22, 2026
The Fifth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE MUSIC & WELCOME

Officiant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures forever.**

Officiant Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

GENERAL CONFSSION

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **Gracious God,
we praise you for accepting us as your children**

**and making us heirs of eternal life.
In your mercy you have washed us from our sins
and made us clean in your sight.
Yet we still fail to love you as we should
and serve you as we ought.
Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,
who is our savior and redeemer. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM EZEKIEL (37:1-14)

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley;

it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on 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."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you

shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please pray Psalm 130 responsively by half-verse.

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; *

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *

O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; *

therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *

in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, *

more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, *

for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL JOHN (11:1-45)

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "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?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and

see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

CANDLE LIGHTING AND SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray to the Lord in all humility, yet filled with hope, saying Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Officiant Let us pray to the Lord in all humility, yet filled with

hope, saying, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reader Lord God, see to your people and your church; lift up what is good, help us cast aside what is harmful; help us fulfill our call to be Christ in the world today. We especially pray for Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Megan our Bishop, Megan, Katie, Mike, Rod, and Jesse, our clergy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, guide, and grant wisdom to the leaders of the nations, that they might work cooperatively and for the benefit of all of humanity. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, infuse our towns and cities with a spirit of communal well-being, that we might always think first of those who live in the margins and forgotten places; and that where we live might be a place where everyone can thrive and live into their created purpose. We pray especially for Christine, our head of school, for all the staff, teachers and students at St. Michael's Day School and Starr King TK-8. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heal what is hurting, mend what is broken, bring wholeness to all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We especially pray for **Jeff, Liz, George, Jackie, Perry, Jane, Fred, Ellen, Michael, Jim, Bill, Carol, Dave, Holly, Sara, Kathy, Dan, Jon, Sarah, Jennifer, Michael, Andrea, Chris, Liz, Mike, Hunter, and Billie.** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, help us to preserve the abundance of creation and ensure its sustainable use as you have envisioned for us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, embrace the dead in your loving arms, hold the grieving in your strong hands, and grant us all the new life in your eternal kingdom. We especially pray for the repose of the souls of Kay Griffin, Diane Gilmore and Mary Hutchinson, and for peace and comfort to their families and loved ones. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what else or whom else shall we pray? (*A time of silence is kept.*) Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Officiant God of promise, send abundant life into your people, enliven our spirits and lift our hearts through the power of Christ's example through whom we pray. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER *

Officiant In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you, and, since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

**Julian of Norwich liturgy*

Officiant Together, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

**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, for ever
and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Officiant Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CONCLUDING REMARKS, DISCUSSION, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
CHECK IN.