

APRIL 2, 2017  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN  
LENT



*The power of God's resurrection has already begun.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 11:1-45</b>	<b>The raising of Lazarus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 37:1-14</b>	<b>Dry bones live again</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Kings 4:18-37</b>	<b>Elisha raises a dead child</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Acts 20:7-12</b>	<b>Paul raises a young man</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Romans 8:6-11</b>	<b>Life in the Spirit</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Ephesians 2:1-10</b>	<b>Made alive with Christ</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 130</b>	<b>Trust the Lord in times of trouble</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 21:1-11</b>	<b>Jesus enters Jerusalem</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25-26 (CEV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, fill us with your resurrection life today. Help us to live for you. Amen. (John 11:25; Romans 8:5)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord God, through this food you give us life for today, and through your Son you give us life forever. All praise to you! Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Spirit of God live in you. May God fill you with new life, now and forever. (Romans 8:9-11)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Here I Am, Lord*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a time when you felt sad and discouraged.
- Jesus responds to the sadness of Mary and Martha with the promise of the resurrection that began for them that very day. How does your Christian life make a difference for you today?
- Where do you see resurrection life happening?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Romans 8:6-11.

Paul contrasts the "mind of the flesh" with the "mind of the Spirit." The one leads to death, and the other leads to life and peace. To have the wrong attitude or the wrong mindset in life, one that is not guided by God's power of love and forgiveness, is to have the "mind of the flesh." It is a life that is a dead end. Life in the Spirit is directed by the power of Christ's resurrection and shapes our lives now and into God's eternity. Reflect on how life in the kingdom of God is different from all other ways of living. Conclude by praying Psalm 130 and then the Lord's Prayer.

### SERVICE



To have the "mind of the Spirit" is to have a mind shaped by Jesus, the one who came to serve and who calls all his followers to be servants. Create a list of the ways you would like to use your God-given gifts to serve others and creation. Then create a log that notes the ways you are able to use your gifts as a servant of God's love. Service to others can be as simple as offering intercessory prayers as well as a smile and a helping hand.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Death happens. It is a reality that we often avoid discussing. The church is a community of faith that reaches out to others with care, support, and the hope of resurrection. Think about an individual or family that is grieving the death of a loved one. Plan a visit or send them a sympathy card. Whether it is a visit or a card, consider including words from Psalm 130 and John 11:25-26.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)