

**April 10, 2011 | Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**The Readings from Scripture**

**The First Reading**

**Ezekiel 37:1–14**

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."*

A reading from the book of Ezekiel

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. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>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." <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, 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." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup>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.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, 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. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>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."

The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God**

## **The Second Reading**

**Romans 8:6–11**

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

A reading from Romans

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## **The Gospel**

**John 11:1–45**

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

*The Holy Gospel according to St. \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter*

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>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." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." <sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she

went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." <sup>28</sup>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." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" <sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>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." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>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." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>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." <sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### ***The Gospel of Our Lord.***

## ***Prayers of Intercession***

As we return to the waters of baptism during this season of Lent, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Let us pray for Christians around the world, made one in baptism; for ecumenical partnerships; and for our sisters and brothers in other faith communities. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the receding polar ice caps, and the disappearing glaciers; for polluted waterways and garbage-filled oceans; for the shrinking rain forests and the many creatures that call them home. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for kings and queens; for presidents and prime ministers; for legislatures and court systems; and for local governments, that all these may serve their peoples with justice. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for day-care providers and librarians; for business owners and artists; for social workers and custodians; for farmers and scientists; for the sick and for all who cannot find work (*especially*). Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the members of this assembly, and for any visitors among us, that we all might see and proclaim you as the light of the world. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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

Let us give thanks for the many witnesses, living and dead, who have served you in astonishing ways; and let us pray for all those who grieve for the dead. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## ***Easter Flower Tulip Order***

We will be taking orders for tulips to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you wish to sponsor a plant they are \$7.50 per pot. The last day to place your order will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> as we need to turn these orders into the Greenhouse by Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Please complete this form and turn it into the church office along with your check.** Checks should be made out to **St. Paul's**.

***Plants may be picked up after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday.***



\_\_\_\_\_ Tulips # of plants (\$7.50 each pot)  
Colors will vary.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

to beautify God's house ***or***

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be picking up my plant (s) following the 10:30 AM service on Easter Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am donating the plant (s) to the church

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## ***Lenten and Easter Schedule***

### **Mid Week Soup Supper & Lenten Services:**

April 6	Soup @ 6:45 PM	Service @ 7:30 PM
April 13	Soup @ 6:45 PM	Service @ 7:30 PM

### **Palm Sunday**

April 17 - Holy Communion 8 AM | 9:15 AM | 10:30 AM  
Sunday School at 9:15 AM

### **Maundy Thursday**

April 21 - Holy Communion Service | 7:30 PM

### **Good Friday Service**

April 22 - 7:30 PM

### **Easter Sunday**

April 24 - 6:30 AM Sunrise | 8 AM Holy Communion  
10:30 AM Holy Communion | 9:15 AM Sunday School Only  
*note: no 9:15 service on Easter*

**St. Paul's Prayer List & Weekly update to the April Vision**

Norm Benner  
Jon Bolton  
Dorothy Mohr

Sharon Moyer - *Wife of Scott Moyer*  
Jamie Nase – *Grandson of Nancy Nase*  
Rodman Leister

**For the complete prayer list** ~ please look in the current edition of the Vision Newsletter. The Sunday bulletins only list updates to the complete list in the Vision.

**The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God** and in loving memory of Father Herbert Yerk and brother “Dutch” Yerk presented by family.

**The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God** and in loving memory of Helen and John Jabs presented by sons Rick and Jack and Families.

**The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God** and in loving memory of the birthday anniversary of David Sheets presented by wife Evelyn and daughters Michele and Lynn.

**Capital Improvement Fund** ~ We have currently received a total of \$63,304 in our Capital Improvement fund toward our goal of \$225,000. Pledges amount to \$64,914.

<b>Elevator Fund</b> ~	Gifts Previously Committed	\$50,000.00
	Gifts Received as of 4.5.11	\$11,480.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$61,480.00</b>

**Elevator Project Update** ~ Parts for elevator being constructed at factory.

**Anyone Interested** ~ Metal folding chairs, plastic stackable chairs, Sunday school chairs and desks will be available on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 in the barn, for a donation. Thank you – The Property Committee.

**Victory House** ~ Join us TODAY at 4:00 as we volunteer at the Victory House. For more information please contact Laura Foreman at 267-923-8895.

**Lunch Bunch** ~ Join us this **Wednesday, April 13 at 11:30 am** in Church Fellowship Hall. Pack your lunch and bring your mug. Dessert is provided. Our program for April is Ms. Terry Kane performing Celtic Songs and playing mandolin and guitar. Come and enjoy the beautiful Irish music. If you are a Redner's shopper, use your save-a-tape card and bring the entire register tape to Lunch Bunch or church and drop it into the receipt receptacle. Thank you!

**Table Talk** ~ Will meet on April 17, 2011 at the home of the Fox family at 4:30 PM.

**Mid Week | Wednesday Soup Supper & Lenten Service** ~ will be observed each Wednesday evening during Lent with the exception of Holy Week. Soup supper at 6:45 PM. The worship service follows at 7:30PM. Join us for this mid-week Lenten devotional time.

**Easter Egg Hunt** ~ We are collecting plastic eggs filled with Easter Candy for our annual Egg Hunt. Filled plastic eggs may be given to the Vicar. The egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 AM in the lower parking lot. Please park at the Frye Road parking lot.

~ **This Week at St. Paul's** ~

<b>Sunday</b>	Early Service with Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service with Holy Communion	9:15 AM
	Sunday Church School	9:15 AM
	Late Service with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Christian Education Committee	10:30 AM
	Victory House	4:00 PM
	ASP Trip Meeting	4:00 PM
	Generations Choir	6:30 PM
	Bell Choir	7:30 PM
	Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM
	<b>Monday</b>	Cub Scouts
Praise Team Rehearsal		7:30 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Bunch	11:30 AM
	Soup Supper	6:45 PM
	Mid Week Lenten Service	7:00 PM
	Alcoholics Anonymous	8:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	Evening Bible Study –at the home of Bonnie Bonser	7:00 PM
<b>Friday</b>	Girl Scouts	6:30 PM
<b>Sunday</b>	PALM SUNDAY	
	Early Service with Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service with Holy Communion	9:15 AM
	Sunday Church School	9:15 AM
	Late Service with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Table Talk (home of the Fox Family)	4:30 PM
	Generations Choir	6:30 PM
	Bell Choir	7:30 PM
Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM	

~ **Today's Worship Assistants** ~

Altar Guild	8:00 AM	Alan and Diane Richard
Assistant	8:00 AM	Nancy Yerger 10:30 AM Robert Walp
Ushers	9:15 AM	Carol Elias & Bradly Hendershot
	10:30 AM	Nancy Yerger & Pat Walter
Monday		Sandra Bergey, Eleanor King, Diane Leister

**Community Good Friday Service** - Friday, April 22, 2011 - Gather outside at St. Mark's at 1 PM - Vicar Christopher McKinstry is the preacher.

**An Evening with Rabbi Harold S. Kushner**, author of "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm at Central Moravian Church West Church & Main Streets, Bethlehem. General Admission tickets are available - \$10/ticket. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact St. Luke's InfoLink at 1-866-STLUKES (785-8537) or visit [www.slnh.org/bereavement](http://www.slnh.org/bereavement).

**Upcoming Women's Event** - Ladies reserve Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to a spring program in the Fellowship Hall from 9-12:15. Look for a poster and sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the elevator hallway. We will be going to the Gilbertsville Tea Room at 1:00 PM with the first 30 ladies who sign up. Program is free. Tea room cost is \$24.00/person. Contact Bonnie Bonser with any questions. 215-679-5553 ext. 125.