

### Ezekiel 37:1-14 (ESV)

37 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy over 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: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon 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 was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, 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; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

### Romans 8:1-11 (ESV)

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For 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 the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact 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, although 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 Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

### John 11:17-27, 38-53 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <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 whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <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. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for 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 lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with 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 he did, believed in him, <sup>46</sup> but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." <sup>49</sup> But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. <sup>50</sup> Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." <sup>51</sup> He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. <sup>53</sup> So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

“I am

the

resurrection

and

the life.”

John 11:25

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

**Theme of the Day** ~ Jesus Christ Is the Resurrection and the Life. The illness and death of Lazarus happened “that the Son of God may be glorified through it” (John 11:4). Jesus’ miracle of raising Lazarus prompted His arrest and crucifixion, whereby He would die “for the nation” and gather “into one the children of God who are scattered abroad” (John 11:51–52). As He called Lazarus from the tomb and commanded others to “unbind him, and let him go” (John 11:44), Jesus also calls us and releases us from the bondage of sin and death. We would not “submit to God’s law,” nor could we “please God” (Rom. 8:7–8), but “he condemned sin” in His own flesh so “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us” (Rom. 8:3–4). Now through the Gospel, “the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells” in us (Rom. 8:11). His Word breathes His Spirit into our mortal flesh, animating us with His own life. As His ministers preach according to His divine command, the Lord Jesus calls us from the grave into the good land that He gives us (Ezek. 37:12, 14).

ORDER OF SERVICE	Divine Service Setting Three	p. 184
OPENING HYMN	<i>“Holy Spirit, Light Divine”</i>	LSB 496
SERMON HYMN	<i>“Be Still, My Soul”</i>	LSB 752
SERMON	<i>“Is It Worth It?”</i>	John 11:17-27, 38-53
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	<i>“Christ, the Life of All the Living”</i>	LSB 420
	<i>“Jesus They Blood and Righteousness”</i>	LSB 563
	<i>“The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace”</i>	LSB 580
	<i>“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord”</i>	LSB 497
CLOSING HYMN	<i>“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”</i>	LSB 649

<b>Pastor</b>	Paul Hauser
<b>Organist</b>	Tami Mosher
<b>Elders</b>	Frank Yell & Jack Traub
<b>A/V</b>	Mark Richardson
<b>Acolytes</b>	Kiera Goward & Allyssa Carroll
<b>Ushers</b>	Dale Rohde, Kevin Ross, Dave Little
<b>Greeters</b>	Don & Bernice Beach
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Lori Kade & Maxine Diener

## Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 111 *Needed for The Lord’s Work at Zion* \$3,856 ~ *Received for the Lord’s Work* \$3,474 = Loose Plate \$198, Envelopes \$2,921 Mission \$87, Maintenance \$168; Cap Prj. \$15.

**Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday:** Apr 8- Nancy Diebel; Apr 9- Ryan Hilbrandt; Apr 10- Adam Beyersdorf, Beth Hagarty; Apr 11 – Carol Card, Jim Dietrich (his 81<sup>st</sup>), Travis Yell; Apr 13- Sharon Hyatt, Robin Wenzel.

**Today’s Memory Verse** ~ “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Proverbs 15:1

**Please note** ~ Quilters will not be meeting on April 4, 2017.

**Handbell Rehearsals** will continue thru May 8 (no rehearsal April 24). All interested meet in the classroom at the east end of the building. Consider joining us. See Tami Mosher if you have questions.

**Order your Easter plants.** Order forms are in the narthex. Tulips, hyacinths, and lilies are \$8 and azaleas \$13. Orders due TODAY. Please place in the offering plate or turn in to the church office.

**Informational Meeting** ~ The committee that has been organized by the trustees to gather information on the pros and cons of selling one or both of the homes will hold an informal meeting on Sunday, April 30 following the worship service in the fellowship hall. A recommendation will be made at the May voters’ assembly meeting. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be provided.

**The Tri-City Good Friday Worship Service** will be held on April 14, 2017 at the Horizon’s Conference Center at 1:00 pm. The Reverend Dr. Richard Wolfram of the Michigan District office will be the guest speaker. In order to underwrite the cost of this service, support from congregation members is appreciated. If you would like to donate, contact the church office. Thank you for any support you can give.

**96<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicken Dinner** will be held on Sunday, April 23 from 11-2 pm. Signup sheets are in the narthex for grocery donations and help needed. Your help is greatly appreciated for our success. This year’s proceeds will benefit Aaron’s Gifts from Home, a nonprofit from Midland that sends care packages to troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Korea, Japan, Cuba, Africa and ships at sea, or wherever they are on deployment. For information on this group visit [www.aarongiftsfromhome.com](http://www.aarongiftsfromhome.com).