



seeking:

*Can these
bones live?*



SAINT LUKE'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023 10:30 am



In Preparation for Worship

"What if the "modern worldview" is itself a fiction, just another in the long line of futile human attempts to play God? In miracles, God reserves God's right to work in ways that disrupt our settled opinions of just what God can and cannot do."

- *Bishop Will Willimon*

Prelude

Passion Chorale

Hans Hassler

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship*

Leader: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

People: **Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?**

Leader: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

People: **Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?**

Leader: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

People: **Hope lives here.**

Leader: So, come. Rest your weary bones.

People: **Come, let us worship God.**

Opening Hymn* 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Prayer of Confession*

Holy Jesus of Nazareth, we confess: **we forget that you know this feeling.**

We forget that you, too, have wept. We forget that you, too, have lost.

We forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.

Forgive us for all the times we place blame on you.

Forgive us for all the times we create distance, imagining that you could never feel what we feel.

Forgive us for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.

Pour yourself into the cracks in our hearts. Bring these bones back to life.

Bring us closer to you. With gratitude we pray, now also the prayers on each of our hearts... (a moment of silence is kept for personal prayers)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness*

Song of Praise 606*

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer for Illumination

Carol Hickey

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story

Catherine Anne Thomas

Children are welcome to come forward for Tell Us Our Story. After Tell Us Our Story, parents will walk children across courtyard to Room 117 (3 and under) and Room 119 (PreK and K). 1st through 5th graders will gather in the narthex and walk with leaders to 252Kid and 252Preteen. Parents will pick up from The Dock and The Lighthouse. Of course, all children are always welcome to remain in worship with their families.

Anthem

Ave Verum

W.A. Mozart
The Chancel Choir

Sermon

O Dry Bones, Hear

David Lower

Affirmation of Faith*

from A Sanctified Art

**We believe that God loves us—God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.
We believe that God does not give up on us—breathing new life into tired bones.
We believe that God returns to us—always seeking us when we are lost.
We believe that God holds hope for us—so we hold onto hope as well.
We believe, help our unbelief. In Christ we see, and believe, and pray. Amen.**

Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering

O Rest in the Lord from ELIJAH

Felix Mendelssohn
Morgan Potts, mezzo soprano

All are invited to participate in support of God's work at Saint Luke's, in one of three ways:

1) Giving envelopes, available in each pew, may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.

2) Give online via slpres.org/giving.

3) Send a text message to 73256, starting with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.

Closing Hymn* 216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Benediction*

Postlude*

Chorale: Jesu, Priceless Treasure

J. S. Bach

*please stand

Please join us in the church lobby for fellowship and conversation!

For the latest Saint Luke's news and information, go to slpres.org or scan the QR code for the latest Highlights.

