

MARCH 22, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



Jesus' resurrection means new life now.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of dry bones
Tuesday	Romans 8:6-11	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Romans 8:12-17	Wonderful future of God's people
Thursday	1 Peter 1:1-9	A real reason for hope
Friday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 130	Trusting the Lord in times of trouble
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to her [Martha], "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?" John 11:25-26 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of life and hope, we thank you for the promise of the resurrection and the power it brings to us each day through Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the strength we receive through this food and the faith and hope we receive through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God free you from all burdens and give you peace.

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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Christ Is the Life



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you are looking forward to do in the future?
- How does the promise of Jesus' resurrection influence your life today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 11:1-45.

With the story of the raising of Lazarus, Jesus makes it clear that he is not only the source of "the resurrection on the last day" (v. 24), but the source of life now. Jesus does not just say he is the resurrection. He says, "I am the resurrection and the life" (v. 25). In this story we gain understanding of what it means that Jesus is the "Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world" (v. 27). The future hope of the resurrection is so important and so real that it changes our life in the present. Even though Jesus weeps with his friends, grief does not control his—or our—life. Our lives are to be freed from the daily powers of sin, fear, and death. "Unbind him and let him go" (v. 44) is the message for us, too. Jesus comes to us when our burdens are many, to unbind us and set us free. Jesus says, "[E]veryone who lives and believes in me will never die" (v. 26).

Discuss: How does faith in Jesus impact your priorities, your values, your relationships?

Pray: **God of resurrection promise, remind us of the new life we are given each day through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help or support someone who is grieving a loss?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the fifth week in Lent, light five of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) has been introduced as a way to pray. This week use this acronym (**ACTS**) as a guide for prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, I praise you for . . . , forgive me for . . . , I thank you for . . . , I pray for (name of people or situations) . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**