

# WEEKEND HOME WORSHIP AIDE



MARCH 28-29, 2020  
5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



**Prepare your space** | Turn off all electronics, light a candle, and sit in a comfortable chair

**Prepare your head** | "Do you believe this?" In our Gospel today, Jesus asks Martha if she believes in him as the resurrection and the life, who offers life even to one who has died. This is true and living faith--faith that does not need to be convinced by signs and wonders, but trusts in the goodness of God. The prophet Ezekiel hears the Lord's desire to raise his people from their graves by the infusion of his spirit. And it's that spirit that gives the gift of true and living faith--faith that believes without seeing. As we prepare for worship on this Fifth Sunday of Lent, let us call out to the Lord, and ask him to roll away the stones that keep us imprisoned in tombs of unbelief. In place of unbelief, may we be impassioned with his life-giving spirit, that when Christ asks "Do you believe this?" we may say with all our hearts and souls, "Yes, Lord, I believe."



**Opening Song** | *Roll Away Your Stone* by Mumford & Sons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eEobPFhpws> or scan the QR code with your smart phone (left)

**First Reading** | EZ 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD. The word the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm** | PS 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8: **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

- Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication. **R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**
- If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered. **R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

- I trust in the LORD; my soul trusts in his word. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the LORD. **R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**
- For with the LORD is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption; And he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities. **R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

## **Second Reading** | ROM 8:8-11

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you. The word the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel** | Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him. The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Reflection Questions**

1. What words/phrases strike you? Why?
2. What darkness within you needs resurrected so you can grow in a living faith? How can the Lord help you discover the "stones" of unbelief you need rolled away?
3. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. What graces do you ask of him this week?



**Homily** | Scan the QR code at left with your cell phone to watch Fr. Michael's homily for today or go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5nG8ocCKhk>

### **Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Petitions** | Response: **Lord, hear our prayer**

1. For all God's people, that inspired by the example of Martha and Mary we may have an increase of hope, we pray.
2. For those in positions of leadership throughout the world, give them wisdom and prudence and may they use their influence to effect positive change and promote the common good, we pray.
3. For all health care workers, and all public servants who care for us, that they may have a greater outpouring of perseverance, patience and trust, we pray.
4. For all those who are feeling the economic impact of these trying times, especially those who have lost their jobs and their families, we pray.
5. For all those who are sick in body and spirit, those on our prayer tree and those dealing with the Coronavirus, we pray.
6. For those mourning the loss of a loved one, may they know the comfort and care of Jesus who wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus, we pray.
7. For all those who have died, especially in our own families, and for consolation to those who mourn, we pray...

God of life, you are the source and the destiny of our lives. Kindle your Spirit within us and hear the prayers we offer through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Offertory

<b>St. Francis "Good Samaritan Fund"</b> We may not be yet feeling the full brunt of the Coronavirus in our own community, but there are many needs that will come to light in coming weeks. This fund helps prepare for immediate needs for those most vulnerable in our parish community. Find on the <a href="http://www.st-francis.net">www.st-francis.net</a> homepage under "Welcome!"	<b>Volunteer</b> Are you willing able to contact our elder parishioners to help us assess their needs? Call the parish office: 641-752-6278	<b>St. Francis of Assisi Parish</b> <b>Electronic giving:</b> <a href="https://www.st-francis.net/online-giving">https://www.st-francis.net/online-giving</a> <b>Mail to:</b> St. Francis of Assisi Parish 107 S. 1 <sup>st</sup> St. Marshalltown, IA 50158
---	--	--

## Our Father...

### Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### Closing Prayer

Bless, O Lord, your people, who long for the gift of your mercy, and grant that what at your prompting, they desire they may receive by your generous gift. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Stay connected!

Website	<a href="http://www.st-francis.net">www.st-francis.net</a>
Text Notifications	Text <b>sfmtown</b> to phone number <b>84576</b> (yes, just 5 numbers!) for parish updates and cancelations
Facebook	Search "St. Francis of Assisi Marshalltown" and click like
YouTube	Daily reflections by Fr. Michael and Fr. Alan, search "St. Francis of Assisi Marshalltown" and click subscribe

### Announcements:

1. There will be no doughnuts and coffee this morning (unless you're buying!)
2. Blessed palms will be available at the church entrances next Sunday (Palm Sunday) – check out YouTube for some great ideas on different ways to fold them!