

The First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The First Reading is from Ezekiel chapter 37.

37 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. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 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."

7 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. 8 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. 9 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." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 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.' 12 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. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 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. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-18

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Acts 2:1-21

The Second Reading is from Acts chapter 2.

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel of Matthew 28:16-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter. Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

O heavenly Father, as we gather once more in your sanctuary, hear our prayers that we lift up to you as we unite our hearts and cry out for the needs of our community and world.

Brief silence for reflection

Burst forth into our lives, O heavenly Spirit, give us the eyes to see the world around us in all its beauty; give us hearts for caring for creation, give us courage to advocate for policies that sustain nature and preserve resources for generations to come. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Land flames of tongue on our shoulders, O heavenly Spirit, give us the words to call out evils such as racism, sexism, xenophobia, and anti-LGTBQ rhetoric; give us hearts for caring for our neighbor, especially those who are different and who are oppressed; give us courage to advocate for policies that provide equal justice for all who dare to live with the same ideals of freedom and liberty. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Rush the breath of new life, O heavenly Spirit, into our aching bodies and wounded souls, give us hearts for those who are sick, give us courage to advocate for polices that provide heath care equally for all. Grant wisdom to our researchers seeking a cure to the Covid-19 pandemic. Strengthen doctors and nurses on the frontlines of the health crisis. And may all our aches and pains, illnesses and diseases, be touched by your hands to restore our wholeness. We especially pray for: Bradley, Josie, Bev, Nancy, Elizabeth, John, Linda, Dave, Jim, Cassie & Family, Delores, Graham, Jim, Bob, Ila, Tucker, Marjorie, Norman, Carmen, Evelyn, Darrell and Donna. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Wisdom of the ages sought by all who lead, O heavenly Spirit, grant divine truth of mercy and compassion to our national leaders as they strive to govern for the common good of all, not just a select few; give our leaders caring hearts for all they serve, give us courage to advocate for polices of peace between nations, and limit the use of our armed forces. Keep those who serve safe, especially Sgt. Lacey Elliot; all her and all her company to serve with honor and return home safely. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You emptied the tomb, O heavenly Spirit, raising Jesus to new life for his disciples to see, give us hearts filled with the inspiration of all the saints who have entered their tombs, give us courage to trust the hope that one day all tombs will be as empty as Jesus'. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

It is with grateful hearts that we lift all concerns, those named and those only the Spirit is able to lift for us, to you. We turn all these over to your care and yearn for your merciful answer, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen