



# SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

306 N. Division Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 • (734) 663-0518 • [www.standrewsaa.org](http://www.standrewsaa.org)

**Sunday, March 29, 2020: *The Fifth Sunday in Lent***

## ***Dear friends:***

We are now in lock-down and our world grows even more quiet. It is important for all of us to strictly limit our physical contact with each other, to the fullest extent possible. The church and the office at St. Andrew's remain closed and will be until at least May 10. Our mail carrier has a key to the building and will continue to deliver our mail to a secure site.

The Bishop has given permission for The Breakfast to continue offering take-out meals each morning. We are coordinating with the Shelter Association to ensure that our procedures are in compliance with health regulations, to keep our guests and volunteers safe. Volunteers package a hot meal every morning that is put out on a table at the door for guests to take in order to minimize contact.

While it is not our usual offering of food and fellowship, this outreach is more vital than ever as many regular services our guests rely on have been cut-back. It is our understanding that The Breakfast and the Delonis Shelter are the only two organizations offering free daily meal services in Ann Arbor.

Deborah Friauff and I had hoped to put together Holy Week and Easter services with a small group of musicians that would be video-taped and posted on-line. With the new restrictions on personal contact that will not be possible. We hope to offer some of the music that was planned for Easter at our celebration of Pentecost on May 31. These eService bulletins will continue to be made available each week, with additional bulletins for Holy Week.

All indications are that there are several more weeks to go before we can emerge back into the world and resume our normal routines. It is important that social distancing not turn into isolation and that boredom does not turn into despair. Little things can make a huge difference. This week I called a college friend I hadn't seen or spoken to in several years. We had a great half-hour conversation. It certainly brightened my day. I hope you can find some way to bring joy into someone's life each day. It will return to you ten-fold.

God bless,  
*Fr. Alan*

*Below: St. Andrew's Venerable Bede Stained Glass Window*



## **The Collect**

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Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Old Testament**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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

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. 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. Then he said to me, "Prophesy 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." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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.' 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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 Response**

Psalm 130: *De profundis*

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, \*  
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

## **The Epistle**

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## **The Gospel**

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly,

though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "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?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he

loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## **Anthem**

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*Abide with Me*

arr. John Frederick Hudson

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.  
Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass  
away; change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, O thou  
who change, abide with me. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless; ills have no  
weight, and tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*

Hear the anthem as performed by the  
University of Aberdeen Chapel Choir:  
<https://youtu.be/cxOwFBBYdJY>

CLICK TO LISTEN

## **The Prayers**

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Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son did share at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: We ask you to bless our homes, and our families and keep us in this time of sickness. Grant us, day by day, your strength and protection; watch over us in times of danger and necessity; and unite us with each other in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the Name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Miracles can be characterized as extraordinary, unexplainable events brought about by forces beyond our understanding. What makes an event a miracle in our eyes is that it's beyond our control, yet beneficial. Lots of people are looking for a miracle right now, and understandably so. The scriptures are full of miracle stories, actual and anticipated. Two of them are in today's readings: The restoration of Israel in the Valley of Dry Bones, and the raising of Lazarus of Bethany. Of the biblical miracles, these are a couple of the biggies. Except for Easter, there aren't many that top these two.

Our logical minds have us question if these things really happen. These passages, and those like them, are wonderful stories, they make us feel good and can impart some larger moral lesson. But an actual telling of events? Maybe, but can such things reach into our day? That may be something of a stretch for us. Yet we want to put our faith in something, just as long as it doesn't require too much of a leap.

When we look for the miraculous our eyes and hearts tend to fall on things closer to home, like the crocuses that are beginning to make their annual appearance, or the stock market of a few months ago. If we are willing to be a bit more open to the possibility of divine intervention in our lives, we might go so far as to classify an unexpected recovery from an illness as a miracle. (I'd be happy with more of that right now.) That's about the extent of our anticipation and acceptance of miracles – nothing so dramatic as life coming from death. Why not? Is it that we don't want to be disappointed? Are we just willing to settle with something to make life a little better, or more comfortable, more beautiful? What more could we want?

Well, a whole lot more! A whole new life, not just a better one. That's what miracles give us, which may be why we are hesitant to look for them. The raising of Lazarus and the Valley of the Dry Bones are two unique episodes in the Biblical narrative. These two miracles are not mere stories of life being snatched from the jaws of death, with a happy ending, complete with a second chance for some fortunate individuals. If that's all they are, it would seem rather cruel for those not so blessed.

Lazarus and the bones that Ezekiel saw were dead, decayed; no opportunity for a second chance available. The miracle is not that life was restored

where there had been death, but that new life was created where hope had died. The miracle was that everything was made new. There was no going back to what was.

We can toss around phrases like, “There’s always hope,” or “Pray for a miracle.” But if hope truly lives in us, if we are the recipients of a divine miracle, then there’s no way we can go along and pretend that everything else is all right – not as long as hopelessness, and despair, and death continue to overwhelm those around us.

When Jesus restored Lazarus to his family and friends, he showed us what we are getting ourselves into by following him. If we are touched by the power of the Resurrection there’s no going back to what was. Priorities in this life would have to change. The truth of this so threatened the religious leaders of Jesus’ day that they killed him, which set the stage for the ultimate miracle that would change everything.

Miracles don’t make things better. Miracles wipe out what was, be it death, illness, loneliness; and then create something brand new. If we say we want to live in the miracle of Christ’s resurrection, but are content to continue on as though our lives haven’t really changed all that much, then we haven’t experienced a miracle, but just a stroke of good fortune that can fade as easily as flowers and stock values can. Miracles create something that is eternal.

As Holy Week draws us closer to Jerusalem and what will take place there, can we take that leap of faith, let a miracle transform us and make the Resurrection a present reality for us now in this time of global crisis and through all eternity? Are we just looking for the new life Jesus offers? Or do we want the pleasant but passing miracles of bull markets and crocuses?

## **Anthem**

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*Verily, Verily I Say Unto You*

Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)

*Verily, verily I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

*For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*

Hear the anthem as performed by the Tallis Scholars:  
[https://youtu.be/KaQ\\_DRvHqr8](https://youtu.be/KaQ_DRvHqr8)

CLICK TO LISTEN

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

*Please stay home and stay healthy!*

03.29.20

## **From Bishop Perry:**

Due to concern about the COVID-19 virus, the Bishop has directed that **ALL WORSHIP be CANCELED until May 10.**

This includes all weekday and Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and memorial services. *You can read Bishop Perry's latest directive [HERE](#)*

## **From Fr. Alan:**

All events and activities at St. Andrew's have been **CANCELED until May 10.**

If you are one of the many people whose income has been affected by closures and layoffs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and need to adjust your pledge, please contact the finance office ([ktuckergray@standrewsaa.org](mailto:ktuckergray@standrewsaa.org) or ext. 207) and your records will be adjusted.

You can always pay your pledge online at [standrewsaa.org/donate.html](https://standrewsaa.org/donate.html).

## **At the Breakfast:**

The Breakfast continues to operate but **is now carry-out only.**

We are still serving hot oatmeal, hard boiled eggs, cereal bars, fruit, juice, and coffee; however, these items are packaged for each guest and is handed out at the door. Food will continue to be available from 7:30 – 8:30 am daily.

## **STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!**

*To be added to the church's email list, please contact Kathy McPherson at [kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org](mailto:kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org).*

## **The Church Office is closed until May 11.**

Our staff is working remotely to ensure that St. Andrew's is able to maintain it's ministry to the parish as best we are able. Any news or updates will be communicated via email and at [standrewsaa.org](https://standrewsaa.org).

**If you have questions or need assistance,** we urge you to connect with our staff via email or by leaving them a voicemail at (734) 663-0518.

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