

**Sunday 22 March 2026**  
*Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)*

**First Reading - Ezekiel 37. 11-14**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.  
The people are saying, 'Our bones are dried up,  
and our hope is gone.'  
But the Lord God says, 'I will bring you up  
from your graves.  
I will put my spirit within you, and you will live.  
And I will lead you back  
to the promised land.  
And then you will know  
that I am the Lord.'  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Romans 8.6-11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.  
To set the mind on the flesh  
is death.  
But to set the mind on the spirit  
is life, and peace.  
The mind that is set on the flesh  
is hostile to God, and unable  
to follow God's law.  
But your life now is not  
in the flesh, but in the spirit,  
with the spirit of God dwelling within you.  
For everyone who belongs to Christ  
has the spirit of Christ within.  
And though your body is dead, in sin,  
your spirit is alive  
in the righteousness of Christ.  
For the spirit of God,  
having raised Jesus from the dead,  
now dwells within you, to give life  
to your mortal body also.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - John 11.20b-45**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.  
When Martha heard  
that Jesus was coming,  
she went out to meet Jesus,  
while Mary stayed at home.  
Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord,  
if you had been here, my brother Lazarus  
would not have died.  
But even now, I know that God will give you  
whatever you ask.'  
Jesus said to Martha, 'Your brother  
will rise again.'  
Martha said, 'I know  
that he will rise again  
at the resurrection, on the last day.'  
Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection, and the life.  
Those who live and believe in me  
will never die.  
And even if they die,  
they will live.  
Do you believe this?'

Martha said to Jesus, 'Yes, Lord,  
I believe  
that you are the Messiah,  
the Son of God, who has  
come into the world.'  
Then Martha went back into the village,  
and said to her sister Mary,  
'The Teacher is here,  
and is calling for you.'  
Mary left the house,  
and went quickly to the place  
outside the village  
where Martha had met with Jesus.  
Those who had been consoling Mary  
thought she was going to the tomb, to weep,  
so they also left the house, and followed her.  
When Mary saw Jesus,  
she knelt at his feet,  
and said to him, 'Lord,  
if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died.'  
When Jesus saw Mary weeping,  
and those who were with her, also weeping,  
he was deeply moved.  
Jesus asked them, 'Where have you laid him?'  
They said, 'Lord, come and see.'  
Jesus also began to weep,  
leading some to say, 'See how he loved him!'  
But others said, 'He opened  
the eyes of the blind.  
Surely he could have kept Lazarus from dying.'  
Jesus arrived at the tomb,  
greatly distressed.  
It was a cave,  
with a stone  
across the entrance.  
Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.'  
Martha said, 'Lord, it will be unpleasant;  
he has been dead  
for four days.'  
Jesus replied, 'Those who believe  
will see the glory of God.'  
So they took away the stone.  
For the sake of the gathered crowd,  
so that they would understand  
that this was the work of the Father,  
Jesus looked up, and said,  
'Father, I thank you for hearing me'.  
Then Jesus shouted  
into the cave, 'Lazarus, come out!'  
And Lazarus came out of the cave,  
his hands and his feet  
still bound  
in strips of linen,  
and a cloth around his head.  
Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him,  
and let him go.'  
Many of those who had been  
comforting Mary  
saw what Jesus did,  
and came to believe in him.  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.