

Making Faith Connections - Cross of Hope Small Group Ministry
March 22, 2026
5th Sunday in Lent
Hungry – resurrection

Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.*

Prayer Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (ELW p28)

Introduction: In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism. (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again John 11:1-45

- What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
- What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
- Who is hungry for resurrection in this story?
 - What does this story reveal about God?
- What is revealed in the grief of Jesus' tears?
 - How do these tears bring us comfort?
- What is the role of the community in this story?
 - How do we proclaim the hope of resurrection ?
 - How do we honor death as sacred?
- Why is faith inherently risky?

Read again Ezekiel 37:1-14

- What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
- How does this vision inspire faith?
- What is the good news this vision carries?

Read again Romans 8:6-11

- What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
- To what affect does Paul use the images of death and resurrection?
- What is the role of the Spirit in this teaching?

Read and reflect on mercy in Psalm 130 if you'd like.

Prayer Requests and Prayer