

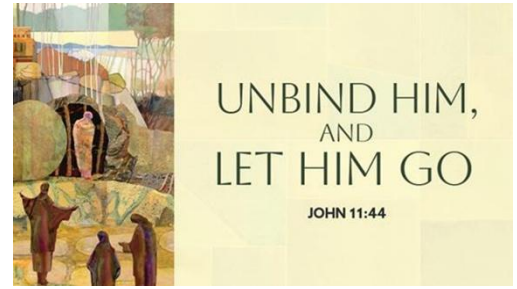
March 22nd, 2026 Lectionary Notes

## The Readings on This Day

*\*\*\*Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

The last of the great signs in the gospel of John is the raising of Lazarus. The church sees in the narrative of the raising of Lazarus and in the vision of the dry bones metaphors for baptism and for the renewed life of faith that is the intention of Lent. The Vigil is coming soon.



### [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

Christians have seen also in Ezekiel's vision a picture of the resurrection of the dead at the end of time. Both now and at the end we rise up in response to the word of the Lord. Through the power of the Spirit's breath, baptism begins our new life, a life that will never end.

### [The Psalm for the Day](#)

After encountering the vision of the valley of the dry bones, we sing the penitential [Psalm 130](#). We are the dry bones, waiting for the Lord. We trust that, although we have sinned, God will forgive. Through the words of this psalm, we articulate the deep meaning of Lent. Another appropriate use of this psalm is at particularly tragic funerals.

### [Romans 8:6-11](#)

In the last of our four Lenten readings from Romans, Paul uses the language of death and life to describe the radical nature of the effect of the indwelling of Christ's Spirit. We are now dead to sin, and the new life of Christ is already experienced here and now.

### [John 11:1-45](#)

The church has seen in this last great Johannine sign a picture of baptism: we too were dead, but the word of Christ has called us from death and restored us to life in the Spirit. Thus Lent is our annual emerging from the grave, our helping to unbind one another for vibrant life together.