

point of the signs and miracles—that everyone would see and know Him as the Only Begotten Son of God. Caiaphas spoke from his personal knowledge, without comprehending that he was speaking prophecy from God. (John was able to report this event as he had connections in the high priest's household, (John 18:14-15.)) The words are full of irony. Jesus came into the world to save the Jews, who are the ones who put Him to death. Caiaphas stated that Jesus should be murdered for the good of the people and the death of Jesus served the good of all people everywhere, and the plan was set in place.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord God, Almighty and Ever-living King of all creation, we call to You for, as You chose to raise Lazarus from the dead, we see that You are the God of the living. By Your Holy Spirit and in the person of Jesus You raised us from among the dead in the water and by the Word of our Baptism. In deep humility we ask You to hear our prayer.

O God, we praise You for the wondrous Love, the beauty of the Holiness, and the infinite power of Christ our Savior. We thank You that You have spoken through Him the Words of Life. We ask You to help us at all times to remain faithful to His Word, and to be obedient to His commands, that we may never taste the bitterness of death. Help us faithfully honor Him by faith and life, by word and deed.

Out of Your infinite goodness lift up Your church, O God, that we may be saved from all weakness and failure and empowered for Holy service. Govern the nations of the Earth, that people everywhere may live without fear of their neighbors. Give Your grace to our homes and schools, that youth may be trained for usefulness in this life and for entrance into the life hereafter. Bless all who labor with mind or hand in providing the necessities by which we must live, and give them the ability to understand that in all human toil we are accountable to You. Help us with all knowledge to be stewards of Your gifts.

Be the Comfort of the suffering and afflicted, the Sun of the aged, the Supply of the needy, the Protector of the homeless, and the Savior of all mankind. For the Revelation of Your Love in the gift of Your Son, for the unsearchable wisdom which ordained His being lifted up on the cross and for His High Priestly sacrifice of His body on the cross, we give You thanks.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

All these things we ask in the name of Your Son Jesus who gave His life as a ransom for all that He might bring us to You.

© Amen.

## LENT FIVE

### Chant Tone



### Introit

Precious in the sight | of the Lord\*  
is the death | of His saints.

I love the Lord, because | He has heard\*  
my voice and my pleas for — mercy.  
Because He inclined His | ear to me,\*  
therefore I will call on Him as long  
| as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid | hold on me;\*  
I suffered distress and — anguish.  
Then I called on the name | of the Lord:  
"O Lord, I pray, deliv | er my soul!"

For You have delivered my | soul from  
death,\*

my eyes from tears, my feet from  
— stumbling.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy — Spirit;  
as it was in the be — ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

Precious in the sight | of the Lord\*  
is the death | of His saints.

(Antiphon, Psalm 116:15;  
Psalm 116:1-4, 8)

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

### Gradual

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] — Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis | ing the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:2)

### Verse

I am the resurrection | and the life.\*

Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet | shall he live.

(John 11:25)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** Open our lips, O Lord, and our mouths shall show forth Your praise. Restore unto us the joy of salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Put Your law within our hearts, and help us to be Your people. Then we will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. We acknowledge, O Lord, that we are undeserving of Your grace and mercy. We pray that You would send us Your Holy Spirit that we would properly glorify You and Your Son. Give us the ability and the desire that will help us show others the true knowledge of Your glory. Grant that we would all come to an awareness of the work of Your Son, our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**WE WELCOME ALL WHO HAVE COME OUT TO WORSHIP ON THIS DAY OF THE LORD.** In this gathering together as the redeemed children of God, we find God our Father waiting to talk to us about Eternal Life through His Son. We are blessed as we have taken this time out of our schedule to come and worship the suffering and death of our Savior. We come to worship because God has made us to be His own dear children through the life and death of Jesus. The plot to kill Jesus didn't begin with Caiaphas. The plot to kill Jesus began with Adam and Eve, it began with original sin. The only way to destroy the inherited sin of our flesh, was for God to take out His righteous wrath on our flesh. God can't punish our flesh without killing us, so instead He sent of His Divine essence in our flesh and then punished that flesh for our sin. Jesus took on all of the punishment for our sin making us the redeemed of God.

#### **THEME OF THE DAY:**

The Resurrection and The Life

#### **INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 116:15) Psalm 116:1-4,8

Psalm 116 is a Psalm of David. It was written as a general review of the many acts of grace that had been showered down on Him and the nation.

#### **COLLECT**

We asked to be preserved in body and soul, that we may be able to be always faithful to Jesus.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Ezekiel 37:1-14

The dry bones represent the hopelessness of our sin. In this, God told the people that He, Himself would act, He would put His Spirit into those He has chosen. God would breathe His Spirit into the dry bones, into the hopelessness of sin, and establish His eternal power to bring the dead to life, to make the lost over into those who do His will. We the New Testament Church are the fulfillment of this prophecy. We who never existed were simply dry bones. We were given flesh by God through the work of His Son and made to be a vast nation of Christians. For the dry bones, God the Father made the plan to kill His own Son, and with the permission of the Son fulfilled our salvation.

#### **GRADUAL**—Hebrews 12:2

We see the wonder of Heaven to compared to our hopelessness here on Earth. Jesus willingly endured the plan to take His life on the cross to make us over into people who fit into the plan of Heaven.

#### **EPISTLE LESSON**—Romans 8:1-11

Paul points us to the final resurrection of the dead when the believers will rise from the dead and enter into the full experience of eternal life. Believers are referred to as the adopted sons of God and heirs of God and coheirs with Christ. We have eternal life now and forever. Paul wants us to see that we are granted the full rights and privileges of a son in a family to which we are not born, but reborn. Suffering for faithfulness is caused because we live in a world that does not yet know Christ. The best is yet to come as all of creation joins in anticipation of the final redemption.

#### **VERSE**—John 11:25

The verse is taken from the Gospel Lesson.

#### **GOSPEL LESSON**—John 11:1-53

Because of the raising of Lazarus the chief priests and the Pharisees ask, "What are we to do?" The answer is obvious, they should trust the Old Testament prophecy and believe in Jesus as the Messiah. If they allowed Jesus to continue everyone would believe in Him, which is the