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Redemption Road

Renewed in Mercy

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

However you approach this constellation of passages, pay attention to how they point your congregation toward the redemption road, the road that leads us toward the cross, resurrection, and into the whole world.

REFERENCES

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

COLORS

Purple

CALL TO WORSHIP

Some of us come to worship today, weary and worn, heavy with all the circumstances that are too much to bear alone.

We gather to travel God's redemption road together.

Some of us come to worship today, dry and thirsty, longing for relief and peace from the troubles that surround us.

We gather to travel God's redemption road together.

Some of us come to worship today with stories to tell of little resurrections, moments of new life that sprang up when we least expected them.

We gather to travel God's redemption road together.

Beloved, whatever we bring with us to worship today, God welcomes us and calls us to work together as we travel God's redemption road together.

We gather to be truth-tellers and life-bringers as we travel God's redemption road together. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God of mercy, we come to you dry and lifeless, seeking your breath of life. Lead us to the place where our hopes lie buried and call us out from the tombs of despair. Call forth our faith that, with Martha, we may know you to be the resurrection and the life, in this world and the world to come. Amen.

Written by Ruth C. Duck, Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), 58.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Out of the depths of despair,
we cry to you, O God.
We are lost in a world
of pain and suffering.
When we put our trust in weapons of war,
we find no peace.
When we put our faith in our own resources,
we feel the ache of our true needs.
When we put our hope in the health of our bodies,
we suffer pain and find no healing.
Come to us, O God.
Forgive our doubts and fears.
Heal our brokenness,
that we may rejoice in your steadfast love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

There is forgiveness and healing with God.
God's steadfast love
has the power to redeem our brokenness
and make us whole.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.

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BENEDICTION

Beloved, the journey does not end here. As you travel God's redemption road, go in the blessing of God who persistently breathes new life into dry and weary places, and watch for resurrection to happen when you least expect it. Amen.

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