I can’t think of more appropriate readings for us today. As we cope with this pandemic and this time of forced physical separation we are met face to face with our own mortality. It is not something humanity is very comfortable talking about. We can see from our leaders in the government who are raring to get our economy back on track that it’s much easier to confront almost anything other then the facts of this health crisis we now face. If we spend too much time looking and listening to the statistics globally and in our own country and the state of Indiana then we can become very fearful. I know some people have been experiencing anxiety and nightmares as we are bombarded with the news and reality of what is happening in our midst. What are you doing to keep yourself calm? How have you experienced God’s peace this past week? Confronting our mortality is not a new idea and it’s something we all face at some point in our lives whether that be when we lose a loved one or when we become aware that we ourselves must leave this earth some-day. Ash Wednesday is a time when we realize that we are made from dust and to dust we must return. Ezekiel reminds us today even a field of dried up bones that is completely lifeless is not immune to the breathe of God. The breathe of God breathes life into that which appears dormant. That is why we continue to spread the Good news even in the midst of our grief and despair and fear at this situation we find ourselves in. Even as we watch our hospitals prepare for what is to come we know that we are not a people without hope. We are a people that continues to pray for one another and connect with one another however we can, whether that’s through zoom, the telephone, our private prayer, face time, we are connected because we are one body of Christ. There is one God who created us all, who conceived of us and made us just as we are and will lead us into eternal life. We are a people who will observe Holy Week from our homes, and go through the triduum in isolation from our St. David’s community but we are not alone. We may be without physical contact from each other and not able to see one another in person but we are not alone. God is present with us holding us together until that time when we will physically worship with one another in our church community at St. David’s. Until that time when we will be truly gathered together in community in our own Gathering place, they real one, not the virtual one. Until the time when we will break bread from the same loaf and drink from the same cup. I know that most of you are people who have chosen to retire to Brown County because you see God’s presence not just with one another but in the beauty of Creation, and you value your homes, and see God’s beauty in nature and all things. That is a gift right now. Whenever, we get a day of sunshine go out into it and feel those rays of sun coming through your windows. Appreciate all that is life giving and feel the breathe of God as the breeze, the rain, the warmth touch your faces. Recognize that these things are the breathe of God, they are sacred, and you are sacred and God is with you. This is the message Jesus is giving to Martha and Mary even as he grieves over the physical loss of Lazarus and weeps over his physical death. He weeps because the grief of missing someone is part of loving deeply. Whether that be because of our social isolation or because someone has died. Jesus, then reminds Martha of God’s promise and appearance and life here on earth through Jesus Christ. Martha doesn’t quite get it but I hope you do. That God’s presence is here with you. Have you experienced grief in this time of taking shelter? What brings you hope? What helps you know God’s presence in the midst of grieving? I was reminded the other day by one of you that the people of St. David’s are resilient. I do believe that to be true and you have continued to worship and perservere through some very trying times. You have grieved the loss of members who have died, priests who have left and many other things. Grieving is part of living at times. But you have gotten through many things and continue to see God’s presence through it all. You continue to be the light of Christ not just for one another but for the community of Brown County and beyond. Jesus says: Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them. That light my friends is you and it’s Christ Jesus shining through you as you wait not silently but brimming with ways to connect with one another and with the community both now and when we are able to be together once more. God will continue to bring life and light even in the midst of death. Don’t lose hope my dear ones, you are children of the light of Christ. May your light continue to shine.