

Morning Prayer

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Opening Sentence

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me, and believes in me, will never die."

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ have mercy on us.

Lord, save your people,
and bless your inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
for you are our help and strength.

Preparation

The Bible tells us not to hide our sins from God our heavenly Father, but to confess them with a repentant and obedient heart, so that we may be forgiven through his boundless goodness and mercy.

We ought to admit our sins to God at all times, and especially when we come together like this, to give thanks for the benefits we have received from him, to offer the praise that is due to him, to hear his holy word, and to ask him to supply whatever we need.

So let us approach the throne of our gracious God, with a true heart in full assurance of faith, and pray together:

Merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the schemes and desires of our own heart

and have broken your holy laws.

We have left undone what we ought to have done,

and we have done what we ought not to have done.

Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us; restore those who are repentant,

according to the promises declared to us through your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant, merciful Father, for his sake, that from now on, we may live godly and obedient lives, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Promise of Forgiveness:

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

Hearing the Word of God

Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us and showing us the way of salvation through faith in your Son.

Teach us through your word and equip us for every good work, For the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Old Testament reading comes from the Prophet Ezekiel, Chapter 37 verses 1-14

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath^[a] enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’” ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

Hear the word of the Lord.

A reading from Psalm 130.

A song of a pilgrim ascending to Jerusalem.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

² Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

The New Testament reading comes from the Letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Romans, Chapter 8 verses 6-11

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Song: Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus

Gospel Reading

The Gospel reading is from the book of Saint John, Chapter 11 verses 1 to 45.

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

⁸ “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles^[b] from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and

whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon:

How to find faith and hope when it looks like the devil is winning

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and all that seen and unseen.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the grave.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers

We now prayer for our world and for its people.

Sovereign Lord, you are the hope and healer of your people and have promised a world where there is no more sickness or crying or death. By your death and resurrection, you have set your people free from the penalty of sin and death. We pray your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in

heaven. Please prosper the work of those who are seeking a vaccine for the coronavirus, please strength those who are treating the sick, please comfort those who are mourning the loss of loved ones or living in fear of this disease. Please give to governing authorities wisdom in their management of this crisis, and give to your people your peace beyond understanding, generous hearts and a renewed trust in your sovereign goodness and glory. Turn the hearts of many now experiencing fear and anxiety that they may find that peace, which is the fruit of the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

We pray for Bishop Peter Stuart and for Assistant Bishops, Charlie Murry & Sonia Roulston. We pray for Rev's Melinda and all who minister her. Give them wisdom and guidance as they lead our dioceses through this difficult season.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for those who are distressed in mind, and lonely in heart. Almighty Father, in your love and wisdom you know the anxieties and fears of your children. Grand that all who are lonely and downcast, who are missing the fellowship of the saints which we normally enjoy, may be enabled to case all their care on your, for you care for them. Give them quietness

of mind, an unshaken trust in you, and guide their feet into the way of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Lord we pray for those who are sick amongst our fellowship at Southlakes. We particularly are mindful of baby Antonio and his parents, Emily & Dylan, baby Adelaide Jane, Bethany, Bill, Bob, Brian, Christopher, Dawn, Fr Glen, Heather, Jim, Jo, Joe Auston, Karin, Michael, Monika, Paul, Ray, Tom and William. We entrust each one into your living care. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon each and give them your peace.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Collect of the day

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strength us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And the blessing of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us live to bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.