

March 29th 2020 – Fifth week of Lent : Passion Week

Opening Prayer

In this moment, through the wonder of modern communication, we gather together though separated both physically and time we are united in our desire for fellowship and our need to worship you. May we worship and adore you with every fibre of our being.

May everything within us cry "Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come". And so today we join with all those who worship and confess you as Lord, from generations past and present, and with all the angels that sing in heaven of your greatness and beauty.

Lord we adore you. Lord we love you. Lord you are so precious to us. Amen

John 11 verses 1 – 45 GNB: The Death of Lazarus

¹A man named Lazarus, who lived in Bethany, was ill. Bethany was the town where Mary and her sister Martha lived. ²(This Mary was the one who poured the perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.) ³The sisters sent Jesus a message: "Lord, your dear friend is ill."⁴When Jesus heard it, he said, "The final result of this illness will not be the death of Lazarus; this has happened in order to bring glory to God, and it will be the means by which the Son of God will receive glory." ⁵Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶Yet when he received the news that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was for two more days. ⁷Then he said to the disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." ⁸"Teacher," the disciples answered, "just a short time ago the people there wanted to stone you; and are you planning to go back?" ⁹Jesus said, "A day has twelve hours, hasn't it? So whoever walks in broad daylight does not stumble, for they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But if they walk during the night they stumble, because they have no light." ¹¹Jesus said this and then added, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I will go and wake him up." ¹²The disciples answered, "If he is asleep, Lord, he will get well."¹³ Jesus meant that Lazarus had died, but they thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴So Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵but for your sake I am glad that I was not with him, so that you will believe. Let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas (called the Twin) said to his fellow-disciples, "Let us all go with the Teacher, so that we may die with him! "Jesus the Resurrection and the Life" ¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before. ¹⁸Bethany was less than three kilometres' from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Judeans had come to see Martha and Mary to comfort them over their brother's death. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died! ²²But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for." ²³"Your brother will rise to life," Jesus told her. ²⁴"I know," she replied, "that he will rise to life on the last day."²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and all those who live and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

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²⁷ “Yes, Lord!” she answered. “I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.” Jesus Weeps ²⁸ After Martha said this; she went back and called her sister Mary privately. “The Teacher is here,” she told her, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this; she got up and hurried out to meet him. ³⁰ (Jesus had not yet arrived in the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.) ³¹ The people who were in the house with Mary, comforting her, followed her when they saw her get up and hurry out. They thought that she was going to the grave to weep there. ³² Mary arrived where Jesus was, and as soon as she saw him, she fell at his feet. “Lord,” she said, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died!” ³³ Jesus saw her weeping, and he saw how the people who were with her were weeping also; his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved. ³⁴ “Where have you buried him?” he asked them. Come and see, Lord,” they answered. ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ “See how much he loved him!” the people said. ³⁷ But some of them said, “He gave sight to the blind man, didn’t he? Could he not have kept Lazarus from dying” ³⁸ Deeply moved once more, Jesus went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone placed at the entrance. ³⁹ “Take the stone away!” Jesus ordered. Martha, the dead man’s sister, answered, “There will be a bad smell, Lord. He has been buried four days!” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believed?” ⁴¹ They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, “I thank you, Father, that you listen to me. ⁴² I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ After he had said this, he called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave clothes, and with a cloth round his face. “Untie him,” Jesus told them, “and let him go” ⁴⁵ Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did, and they believed in him

.”Singing the Faith 252

1 Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Bread,
the Bread of Life for the world am I.
The Bread of Life for the world am I,
the Bread of Life for the world am I.’
Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Bread,
the Bread of Life for the world am I.’

2 Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Vine,
the true and fruitful Vine am I.
The true and fruitful Vine am I,
the true and fruitful Vine am I.’
Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Vine,
the true and fruitful Vine am I.’

3 Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Way,
the true and living Way am I.
The true and living Way am I,
the true and living Way am I.’

Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Way,
the true and living Way am I.’

4 Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Light,
the one true Light of the world am I.
The one true Light of the world am I,
the one true Light of the world am I.’
Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Light,
the one true Light of the world am I.’

5 Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Life,
the Resurrection and the Life am I.
The Resurrection and the Life am I,
the Resurrection and the Life am I.’
Jesus the Lord said: ‘I am the Life,
the Resurrection and the Life am I.’

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Psalm 130 - New International Version (NIV)

A song of ascents. [Sung by Hebrew pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem or possibly while ascending Mount Zion or the steps of the Temple]

- 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

Prayer for today

God of compassion, your Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life. ... Bring the hope of eternity to families in mourning and children who grieve, through Christ, the hope of glory.

The Lord's Prayer

A Blessing

As we come to the end of this time we have set aside to be with Jesus as we worship his Father may we sense the Holy Spirit sustaining us through these difficult times. Amen

Share the Grace