

Sunday, March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prayer for the Morning

Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: come, let us adore him! **Glory to the Father...Amen. Alleluia!**

Hymn

Meter: LM

To you alone, Creator God,
Eternal joyful peace belongs:
Your heav'nly choir for ever sings
Their praise in endless festal songs.
But we, of sanctity bereft,
Bleak lives of pain and toil have known:
How could we here in exile sing
The songs of our Eternal Home?
O Father, still your promise lives:
That those who weep shall blessed be;
Then help us now to mourn the sins
That banish us from sanctity.
But as we weep, Lord, give us faith
And hope though plagu'd with sorrows sore,
Until the day you bring us home,
And all our joyful songs restore.

Psalm

130

O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. (Ez 37:12)

Out of the depths of our souls, we call upon the Lord who raised Lazarus from the dead. May he give us the confidence of Martha in the life-giving power of Jesus. May we see our mortality not as a curse but as our gateway to eternity.

**Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!**

**O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.**

**If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?**

**But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.**

**My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.**

**My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.**

**Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.**

**Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.**

Glory to the Father...

Word of God

Job 19:25-27

I know that my Vindicator lives, / and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; / Whom I myself shall see; / my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him, / And from my flesh I shall see God; / my inmost being is -consumed with longing.

Then you shall know that I am the Lord. (Is 49:23)

Canticle of Zechariah

The one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you. (Rom 8:11)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

As we rejoice in the promise of life, we pray for those who are preparing to receive the gift of life through the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter and for the communities of faith who will receive them:

R/Grant new life, O Lord.

Give them the faith to acknowledge Christ as the resurrection and the life, - we pray. R/

Free them from sin and grant them growth in the holiness that leads to eternal life, - we pray. R/

Protect them from all snares and temptations of the evil one, - we pray. R/

Fill them with the hope of the life-giving Spirit and prepare them to celebrate in spirit and in truth the glory of Christ's death and resurrection, - we pray.

R/

Personal intentions

Our Father....

O God, the source of all life, preserve us from the temptation to seek life in ourselves alone, and grant us faith to seek life in Jesus Christ through our participation in the mystery of the cross, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Reading 1 **Ezekiel 37:12-14**

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Reading 2 **Romans 8:8-11**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel **John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45**

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even

now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Men of St Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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