

Readings & Prayers of Intercession

**5th Sunday of Lent
29th March 2020**

The Collect

O God, you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
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.

Readings

Psalm 130

A Song of Ascents.

- ¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
- ² Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
- ³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
- ⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.
- ⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
- ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
- ⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
- ⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Romans 8.6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit^[a] is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11.1-45

¹¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will

live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So 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?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."
The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to God, whose word is the word of life.

¶We pray for the Church of Christ

We pray for our church at this difficult time when our church buildings are closed and we cannot meet together. We pray that we may be more than just our buildings and that we can continue to serve God and each other in prayer and actions.

We pray for our Bishops and our clergy that they may find ways to reach out to us and the whole of society. We pray that people will turn back to the church in this time and that they will find comfort and solace in prayer and worship.

Lord of wonders, through your cross you transform despair into hope and death into life. May all who are involved in ministry reveal your love and your saving power.

May all who turn to your church find you there, waiting patiently for them in love and compassion.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

¶We pray for our Queen and those in authority

We pray for Queen Elizabeth, for our government and for all who face the responsibilities of leadership in this time of crisis. In particular, we pray for the Prime Minister and Cabinet and members of the COBRA committee. We pray that they will have stamina and courage in facing difficult decisions and that they will have the assurance of knowing that people are united as we face common difficulties.

Lord, we pray for the rulers of the nations that they may be open to your will and govern in your grace.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

¶The local community

We pray for our own community and especially the residents of Welton Grove, St Barnabus Close & East Mead. We pray for those who are lonely or worried at this time and give thanks for the good neighbours who are taking on work of kindness and support. We pray that this time of isolation will bind us together tighter and that our community will emerge stronger when it is over.

Lord, we thank you that we are not alone, that you are present and work in us to reconcile and make new all who live in your world. Help us to pour out your love on all those who today would struggle to find joy in the resurrection story, and to share the bounty you have granted us with those who are in need.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

¶We pray for those facing ill health, infirmity or suffering.

We pray for all who are working to care and cure the sick and we especially remember and thank God for the work of staff in the NHS facing the challenge of coronavirus at this time. We pray too for carers in residential homes and those looking after the elderly or the ill who are in their own homes.

We pray for all those who are sick or who fear illness at this time.

Amongst the Sick we remember: Rachael Macfarlane, Rhoda, David, Evan & Annie Dwyer, Judy Flook, Miranda Cooper, Rose Stenner, Paul & Margaret Knott, Eric Mitchard, Irene Leet, Faye McDermott, Anne Hatton, Rob & Glyn Gilliland, Gerrard Monks, Trevor & Elizabeth Bell, Fr Roy Boots, Nicholas Hambleton, Mary Hickmott, Helen Plummer & Daniel Plummer.

Lord Jesus, from your love for others you sent healing and peace. Be close to us at this time. May we know that you are near us, that you love us and that from that great love you will help us.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

¶We pray for those who have died and for those who grieve:

We pray for Mary Jordan who has recently died.

In our Years Mind we pray for: (S) Marion Whale, Margaret Merrilees, Arthur Groves (M) Laurence Carter (W) Richard Lawrence, Aubrey Mills, Cicely Mills, David Davies, Helen Mabblerley, Ema Smith (Th) Elsie Edwards, Jack Wisbey, Sarah Tunstall (F) Florence Whittock (S) William Penny, Sybil Mann.

Lord Jesus, you loved Lazarus and raised him to life. You have promised that if we believe, we will see the glory of God. May those who have died rest in peace and rise in glory and may we all have the faith and hope of meeting you.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And so rejoicing in the fellowship of Mary, John and all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.