

Church of the Ascension, Chicago
Low Mass for the Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020



The raising of Lazarus, after William Blake, late 19th or early 20th century, Tate Gallery Collections

LOW MASS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 29, 2020
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION RECTORY

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

The Decalogue

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me. *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not make for yourself any idol. *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Honor your father and your mother. *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not commit murder. *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not commit adultery. *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not steal. *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not be a false witness. *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence ...*

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Trisagion *Repeated three times*

Celebrant: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

People: Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit: **The First Reading**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. *People:* Thanks be to God.

Gradual “*Eripe me Domine*” (Ps. 143)

Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies: teach me to do only what pleases you. Ps. 18. The Lord delivers me from my cruel enemies, and sets me up above my adversaries: you shall rid me from the wicked.

Psalm 130 *De Profundis*

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD,
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption,
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

The Second Reading

Romans 6:16-23

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Tract "Saepe expugnaverunt" (Ps. 129)

Many a time have they fought against me from my youth up. V. May Israel now say: yea, many a time have they vexed me from my youth up. V. But they have not prevailed against me: the plowers plowed upon my back. V. And made long furrows: but the righteous Lord has hewn the snares of the ungodly in pieces.

The Holy Gospel *As able, please stand.*

John 11:1-44

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But 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." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus 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. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." 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." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

Continued ...

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. 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." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

Father Patrick Raymond, Rector

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth,
live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. (Silence)

*Let us pray our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop Jeffrey and for all bishops, priests,
deacons and lay ministers: for wisdom and compassion in leadership and in serving.*

Lord, in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer.***

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace;
that we may honor one another and serve the common good. (Silence)

*In this time of trial, uncertainty and fear, let us pray for the leaders of nations and states, our cities
and households: for wisdom in decisions that affect the lives of so many others; for policies that inspire
confidence and that serve the needs of those most at risk at this time; and for editors, reporters, journalists
and all who are responsible for covering and interpreting the news.*

Lord, in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer.***

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the
service of others and to your honor and glory. (Silence)

Lord, in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer.***

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love
one another as he loves us. (Silence)

*Let us pray for one another in our parish family, and for all persons of whatever faith or tradition
who are unable at this time to take part with others in worship and fellowship.*

Lord, in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer.***

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their
troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. (Silence)

*Charley Taylor, Jim Berger, Ethel Martin, Carnola Malone, Charlene MacDougal, Jack John-
ston, Catriona Patriarca, Jim Lo Bello, Judy Cook, Mary Lou Devens, Marty Stenson, Fritz Eng-
strom, Katy and family, Ruby Woods.*

Lord, in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died +, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray
that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. (Silence)

Denise Gordon, John Mulcare, Ted Jennings

Lord, in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer.***

Celebrant: We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of
sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his
death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of the Lord ... in spirit.

The Offertory

Celebrant: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

The priest elevates the offering of bread, saying

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: by your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made; it will become for us the bread of life.

***People:* Blessed be God for ever.**

As water is mingled with the wine, the priest prays

In the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, as he humbled himself to share our humanity.

The priest elevates the offering of wine (and water), saying

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: by your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands; it will become our spiritual drink.

***People:* Blessed be God for ever.**

The Celebrant may add

Come, O Sanctifier, Almighty and Eternal God, and bless, this sacrifice prepared for the glory of Your holy Name.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Orate Fratres

Celebrant Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People May the Lord receive this sacrifice at your hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

Celebrant Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.



Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where
to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way
as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil,
and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the
company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself;
and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death,
you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son,
to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross,
and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,
"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for
you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the
remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

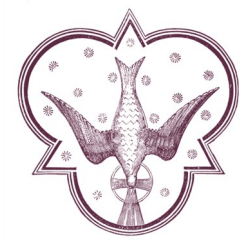
Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.



All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People:* Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are they who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.

***People* But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

THE COMMUNION

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Solemn Prayer over the People

The Celebrant says

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant: The mass is ended. Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



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Instagram



The Raising of Lazarus, 1780, Benjamin West, collection of the Art Institute of Chicago