

**A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Welcome

Opening Sentences

Officiant: Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

People God's mercy endures for ever.

Confession & Absolution

Officiant: Let us confess our sins to God

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

The Officiant offers absolution.

Officiant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

God of all consolation and compassion,
your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary;
your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls.
Pour out your Spirit upon us,
that we may face despair and death
with the hope of resurrection and faith in the One
who called Lazarus forth from the grave. **Amen.**

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.]

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130 *De profundis*

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?

3 But there is forgiveness with you;
so that you may be revered.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits;
in your word I hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,
**more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

6 O Israel, hope in the Lord!
for with the Lord there is steadfast love,

7 With the Lord there is plenteous redemption,
and the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Musical Meditation

The Gospel **John 11:1-44**

Gospeller: 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 Judeans 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. 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 others 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 others 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."

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

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflection

led by Hope Christensen, Seminarian

A Statement of Faith

Originally from Grace Episcopal Cathedral, San Francisco.

We believe in God the Creator,
by whom every person in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God:
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen

The Prayers of the People

Form IV, The Book of Common Prayer

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.

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

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 Christ loves us.

Silence

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. We remember those on our prayer list, Marcia Coe, Anne Chase, Jo Crozier, Mary Lou Cumberpatch, Carl Keith, Dan Grady, Jon Martineau, Sue Mitchell, Lee Puricelli, Lissa Ramsepaul, Betsy Robbins, Amy Saylor, and those we now name,

The congregation is invited to add their intercessions either silently or aloud. If aloud, remember to unmute yourself to speak, then mute yourself when finished.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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

The congregation is invited to add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us grateful hearts for the many blessings of our lives.

The congregation is invited to add their prayers of thanksgiving either silently or aloud. If aloud, remember to unmute yourself to speak, then mute yourself when finished.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Officiant adds a concluding collect.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Peace

Officiant: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Benediction

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Additional Prayers

From A New Zealand Prayer Book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa' (adapted)

Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal
of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. Amen.

From Common Worship (Church of England) and Enriching our Worship (The Episcopal Church)

Prayers for Serenity

Merciful Jesus, you are my guide, the joy of my heart, the author of my hope, and the object of my love. I come seeking refreshment and peace. Show me your mercy, relieve my fears and anxieties, and grant me a quiet mind and an expectant heart, that by the assurance of your presence I may learn to abide in you, who is my Lord and my God. Amen.

or this

Jesus, let your mighty calmness lift me above my fears and frustrations. By your deep patience, give me tranquility and stillness of soul in you. Make me in this, and in all, more and more like you. Amen.

For Emergency Workers

God our strong deliverer: when those charged with the urgent mediation of your healing power feel overwhelmed by the numbers of the suffering, uphold them in their fatigue and banish their despair. Let them see with your eyes, so they may know all their patients as precious. Give comfort, and renew their energy and compassion, for the sake of Jesus in whom is our life and our hope. Amen.

or this

Divine Physician, hear our prayers for those in emergency medicine. By your healing power, grant them quick minds and skillful hands. Strengthen them in times of trauma. In quiet times, give them rest and assurance of the value of their work. Keep them ever prepared for the work you have called them to do, for your mercy' sake. Amen.

In the Morning *(a prayer for one who is ill, convalescing or many of our cases, isolation!)*

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.