



# THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the “leader” parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

## SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

## INTRODUCTION

Leader: Jesus said, “I will be with you always, even to the end of the ages.” We think for a moment of his presence here, with us now, in our home.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

Leader: Before we worship, we think of our lives, especially acknowledging our faults and failings. After a moment of silence, we ask forgiveness for our sins, saying:

Leader: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

## GOSPEL READING

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

Mary and Martha 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## REFLECTION

Leader: In many ways there is no greater miracle than this – to bring someone back from death itself! Every miracle that Jesus works is a sign or a sermon, which teaches us something about the Kingdom of God. Here Jesus teaches us that not even death is final. It is not the end. Even while proclaiming resurrection and life, Jesus acknowledges grief: he weeps at his friend's death. As we experience the paradoxical mixture of faith and grief, let us say, with Martha, "Yes, Lord, I believe!"



**A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS:** Jesus always wants to help us – though sometimes we wonder how he can do anything! In the story today lots of people were very sad because Lazarus had died (you might have seen this in your family): Jesus was sad too, even though he was going to help everyone in such an amazing way. Perhaps Jesus understands that sometimes we have to go through sad things before we can get to the happy ending. Can you think of any films or stories that show the same thing?

## INTERCESSIONS

**Leader:** Let us pray that we may always believe in Jesus, whatever happens.

**Leader:** Let us pray for our Diocese and our Parish family, that in difficult times we may remain bound together in communion of love and faith. We pray:

**All:** **In your love, give us life, O Lord!**

**Leader:** We remember all people who are sad or mourning the loss of a loved one at this time, that Jesus may give them comfort and hope. We pray:

**All:** **In your love, give us life, O Lord!**

**Leader:** We pray for all who have died, that they may receive new and eternal life from Jesus, who died and rose again. We pray:

**All:** **Guide us by your Spirit, O Christ.**

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Leader:** At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:** **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. Amen.**

**Leader:** Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of your grace. Through Christ our Lord.

## PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**Leader:** Loving Father, as true man Jesus wept for Lazarus his friend and as eternal God he raised him from the tomb, just as, taking pity on the human race, he leads us by sacred mysteries to new life.

At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



**All:** My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: 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.

**All:** **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

Leader: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

**All:** **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

Leader: 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.)

**All:** **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

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

**All:** **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

## FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** **Amen.**

