

A Service of Morning Prayer
March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent



The Raising of Lazarus

by Danish artist Carl Bloch 1834-1890

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever lives
and believes in me shall never die. *John 11.25, 26*

CP 11 Blessed be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.

2 With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
before God all our days.

3 My child, as prophet of the Lord
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
 All desires known,
 And from you no secrets are hidden.
 Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 That we may perfectly love you,
 And worthily magnify your holy name;
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 130

Refrain You have rescued my soul from death.

130:1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

130:2 Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

130:3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

130:4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

130:6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

130:7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

130:8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

A Reading from Ezekiel 37:1-14

37:1 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.

37:2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

37:3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

37:6 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."

37:7 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.

37:8 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.

37:9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy 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."

37:10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

37:11 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.'

37:12 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.

37:13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

37:14 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CP 410 Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

1 Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.

3 Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.

2 Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's mysteries known or yet untold;
let water's fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.

4 Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one family with a billion names;
let every life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.

A Reading from Romans 8:6-11

8:6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

8:7 For 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,

8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

8:9 But 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.

8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

8:11 If 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 649 Breathe On Me Breath Of God

1 Breathe on me, breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

3. Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine
to do and to endure.

4 Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 11:1-45

11:1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

11:2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

11:3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

11:4 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."

11:5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

11:6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

11:7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

11:8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

11:9 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.

11:10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

11:11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

11:12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

11:13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

11:14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

11:15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

11:16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

11:17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

11:18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,

11:19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

11:20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

11:21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

11:22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

11:26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

11:28 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."

11:29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

11:30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

11:31 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.

11:32 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."

11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

11:34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

11:35 Jesus began to weep.

11:36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

11:37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

11:38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

11:39 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."

11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

11:41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.

11:42 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."

11:43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

11:44 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."

11:45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 120824 Be Still

1 Be still for the presence of the Lord
 The Holy One is here
 Come bow before Him now
 With reverence and fear
 In Him no sin is found
 We stand on holy ground
 Be still for the presence of the Lord
 The Holy One is here

2 Be still for the glory of the Lord
 Is shining all around
 He burns with holy fire
 With splendor He is crowned
 How awesome is the sight
 Our radiant King of light
 Be still for the glory of the Lord
 Is shining all around

3 Be still for the power of the Lord
 Is moving in this place
 He comes to cleanse and heal
 To minister His grace
 No work too hard for Him
 In faith receive from Him
 Be still for the power of the Lord
 Is moving in this place

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven.
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again
 to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by Lesley Lambert

As we journey through the season of Lent, we are thankful for this opportunity to share prayer together today. Hear us as we pray, O Lord, and grant the desires of our hearts as You deem best for us and for those for whom our prayers are requested today.

We pray for Your most holy church throughout the world: The Anglican Church of S. America; The Diocese of Toronto, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Arbil, Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw and the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, Suffragan Bishops; All Saints, Drayton Valley; The Buye Diocese, Gitobe Hakizimana, Rector; Kehewin Cree Nation.

We pray for our parish home of St. Peter's and all those who lead us in worship, music and prayer and those who prepare our church space on Sundays, making the altar ready to receive You, giving thanks for the careful devotion of the members of Altar Guild.

We give thanks today for our country of Canada, where we are safe and enjoy freedoms unknown to many countries, as we remember the people of Ukraine who have endured the invasion of their homeland over this past year. Sustain them and all those who suffer brutality or repression in their home countries, especially the Uyghur people, the Rohingya people and the populace of Iran, and give international leaders the moral strength and courage to speak out against repression and violence.

Let us remember all those who are afflicted in body, mind or spirit, the addicted, the hungry and the homeless and the work of the many agencies who try to keep them safe. Walk alongside those who are isolated or lonely, and grant your blessing upon those for whom our prayers have been requested today: Sandra, Merle, Mary, Irene, Helen, Tony and Mary Jean, Bill, Geraldine, Joan, Shirley and Cyril, Lisa, Marijke, Christie, Cathy and family, Diane, Janelle, Rosemary, Roald, Sandy and Luci.

We pray for the souls of those who have died, remembering especially today Constable Brett and Constable Travis who died in the line of duty last week. Give comfort and healing to their families and their colleagues at this most difficult time.

Loving Father, we give thanks for the gift of each new day and the opportunities it brings. May we seek ever to do what is right and good and follow, to the best of our ability, the example of Your son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ who gave his life that we might be forgiven from our sins and find eternity with You.

All this we pray in His name,
Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
your Son came into the world
to free us all from sin and death.
Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

And now, as our Saviour 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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

CP 466 How Clear is our Vocation, Lord

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,
 when once we heed your call:
 to live according to your word,
 and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
 that you are Lord of all,
 and will not let us fall.

2 But if, forgetful, we should find
 your yoke is hard to bear;
 if worldly pressures fray the mind
 and love itself cannot unwind
 its tangled skein of care:
 our inward life repair.

3 We mark your saints, how they became
 in hindrances more sure,
 whose joyful virtues put to shame
 the casual way we wear your name,
 and by our faults obscure
 your power to cleanse and cure.

4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,
 together or alone,
 in old routines or ventures new,
 may we not cease to look to you,
 the cross you hung upon,
 all you endeavoured done.

The Dismissal

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever lives
 and believes in me shall never die. *John 11.25, 26*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness
 working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for
 ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
 and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.