

An Order of Worship for Use at Home
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020

Before you begin, choose a place for your devotion with a table or other flat surface and seating where you are comfortable, whether alone or gathered with your family.

Assemble the following:

A Candle to represent the presence of Christ

A Bible that you can place near the candle

A Cross

If you have others who can share in leading the worship, assign tasks for the reader, the intercessor, and the worship leader. When all are settled, the leader says:

Leader Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

As the candle is lit, the leader prays:

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its flame we may be purified from all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Against you, you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Take the cross in hand and hold it, passing it to each person before the Leader says

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

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

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.**

Psalm 130

Read together or take turns

- 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 First Reading is from the prophet 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, prophecy, 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.

Wonder for a moment: have you ever felt the Spirit of the Lord upon you? How did it change you? Have you ever been without hope? Did you call upon God for help? How does the Lord speak to us?

The Second Reading is from John 11:1-45

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. 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.”

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

Wonder for a moment about this story of the raising of Lazarus. Jesus asks Martha if she believes in the resurrection. Jesus states that he is the resurrection and the life. What does is the resurrection life? What implications does it have for your own life? What part of the story speaks to you? Focus on that word or phrase and invite God to reveal a deeper meaning for you from God’s word today.

If you have time, please also read Father David’s homily for this Sunday.

The Apostles' Creed

All say together

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.

Benedictus

**All Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, •
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, •
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old •
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, •
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: •
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, •
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, •
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation •
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God •
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, •
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall
be satisfied.**

Intercessory Prayer

Leader: Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the
prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us

**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.**

A Prayer During this Time of Separation

Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

The Conclusion

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.
All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.