

Home Prayers

March 29, 2020 • Fifth Sunday in Lent

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 685-679)

If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text. If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently. During Lent, it is fitting that a cross be placed near where you will be praying.

The Preparation

Jesus said, "And if I am lifted up, I will draw the whole world to myself."

We will take up our cross and follow him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Almighty God, by the suffering of your Son you have brought hope to the whole world.
Help us in our trials and be the strength of our human weakness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A hymn may be sung. This one can go to the tune St. Anne.

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

The collect of the day may be said. This is the collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent:

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.
Amen.

Reading

The Gospel of the day may be read. John 11:1-45 is the Gospel appointed for the Fifth Sunday in Lent:

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 for 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 for 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 upwards 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.

Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the scripture passage with others, or read a related work of literature.

Intercessions

Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed. You may use the following litany alone or with others:

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

For the church throughout the world,
especially where this pandemic prevents us from gathering in person for worship.

In the Diocese of Quebec we pray for St. Philip, Kegaska; in the wider church we are asked to pray for National Anglican Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples; and in the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury and the organizers of the Lambeth Conference, now postponed until next year.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

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

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our province and country at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions for the common good:

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses, medical researchers,
and all on the front lines of our health care system,
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.

This prayer can also be said:

Let us remember before God our selfish ways, the things we have done wrong, the sorrows we have caused, and the love we have not shown.

A moment of silence for reflection is kept, followed by this prayer and an assurance of pardon.

**Most merciful Father,
forgive us our sins against you and against each other.
Strengthen us to overcome our weaknesses,
that we may live in love
as you would have us live,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

This prayer can then be said:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.