

Sunday, March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prayer for the Morning

Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: come, let us adore him! **Glory to the Father...Amen. Alleluia!**

Hymn

Meter: LM

To you alone, Creator God,
Eternal joyful peace belongs:
Your heav'nly choir for ever sings
Their praise in endless festal songs.
But we, of sanctity bereft,
Bleak lives of pain and toil have known:
How could we here in exile sing
The songs of our Eternal Home?
O Father, still your promise lives:
That those who weep shall blessed be;
Then help us now to mourn the sins
That banish us from sanctity.
But as we weep, Lord, give us faith
And hope though plagu'd with sorrows sore,
Until the day you bring us home,
And all our joyful songs restore.

Psalm

130

O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. (Ez 37:12)

Out of the depths of our souls, we call upon the Lord who raised Lazarus from the dead. May he give us the confidence of Martha in the life-giving power of Jesus. May we see our mortality not as a curse but as our gateway to eternity.

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.
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.
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.
Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Glory to the Father...

Word of God

Job 19:25-27

I know that my Vindicator lives, / and that he will
at last stand forth upon the dust; / Whom I myself
shall see: / my own eyes, not another's, shall
behold him, / And from my flesh I shall see God; /
my inmost being is -consumed with longing.

Then you shall know that I am the Lord. (Is 49:23)

Canticle of Zechariah

The one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you. (Rom 8:11)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has
come to his people and set them free. He has
raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house
of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that
he would save us from our enemies, from the
hands of all who hate us. He promised to show
mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy
covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free
to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in
his sight all the days of our life. You, my child,
shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for
you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to
give his people knowledge of salvation by the
forgiveness of their sins. In the tender
compassion of our God the dawn from on high
shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell
in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide
our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

As we rejoice in the promise of life, we pray for
those who are preparing to receive the gift of life
through the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter and
for the communities of faith who will receive
them:

R/ Grant new life, O Lord.

Give them the faith to acknowledge Christ as the
resurrection and the life, - we pray. **R/**

Free them from sin and grant them growth in the
holiness that leads to eternal life, - we pray. **R/**

Protect them from all snares and temptations of
the evil one, - we pray. **R/**

Fill them with the hope of the life-giving Spirit and
prepare them to celebrate in spirit and in truth the
glory of Christ's death and resurrection, - we pray.

R/

Personal intentions

Our Father....

O God, the source of all life, preserve us from the temptation to seek life in ourselves alone, and grant us faith to seek life in Jesus Christ through our participation in the mystery of the cross, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Reading 1 Ezekiel 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord God: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

Reading 2 Romans 8:8-11

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you."

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

The sisters (of Lazarus) sent word to Jesus saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that

whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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