

Sunday, March 22 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Prayer for the Morning

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

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, that we may know that he is the Christ. May we see our mortality not as a curse but as our gateway to eternity.

Your love, Lord, reaches to heaven;
your truth to the skies.
Your justice is like God's mountain,
your judgments like the deep.
To both man and beast you give protection.
O Lord, how precious is your love.
My God, the sons of men
find refuge in the shelter of your wings.
They feast on the riches of your house;
they drink from the stream of your delight.
In you is the source of life
and in your light we see light.
Keep on loving those who know you,
doing justice for upright hearts.
Let the foot of the proud not crush me
nor the hand of the wicked cast me out.
See how the evil-doers fall!
Flung down, they shall never arise. 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 that 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, amid the dark chaos from which you brought forth the world, you spoke the liberating word: "Let there be light." Speak still this word into our hearts as we prepare to celebrate the rising of Jesus Christ, the Sun of Justice. In his name we ask. Amen

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 9:1-41**
Gospel John 11:1-45

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So 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." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. 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." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell 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 had come with her weeping, 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.

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