

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

ENTRANCE HYMN

GREETING

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

INTRODUCTION

As the time of Christ's passion and resurrection draws near, let us reflect upon the frailty of our human nature and Christ's sacrificial love for us.

KYRIES

Let us stand with Christ in his suffering. He was despised; he was rejected, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was pierced for our sins, bruised for no fault but ours. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

His punishment has won our peace, and by his wounds we are healed. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We had all strayed like sheep, but the Lord has laid on him the guilt of us all. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy, and immortal, have mercy on us. **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy, and immortal, have mercy on us.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

God of all consolation, your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary, for your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls. Pour out your Spirit upon us, so that we may face despair and death with the hope of the resurrection and faith in the One who called Lazarus forth from the grave. Amen.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL

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 prophecy, 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. **(37: 1 – 14)**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Refrain: The Lord shall redeem us from all our sins.

Out of the depths have I called you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. **Refrain.**

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand? For there is forgiveness with you; therefore, you shall be feared. **Refrain.**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for Him; in His word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. **Refrain.**

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; with Him there is plenteous redemption, and He shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **Refrain. PSALM 130**

A READING FROM PAUL’S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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. **(8: 6 – 11)**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN BEFORE THE GOSPEL

HOLY GOSPEL

The Lord be with you,
and also with you.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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. (11:1-45)

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God,

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,

**who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Most Holy God, your goodness always tests our readiness to receive it, please increase our eagerness for you and enlarge our ability to share your love around. Gracious God, steer us through times of temptation, *and deliver us from evil.*

Today, we think of those who are being acutely tempted: tempted to look the other way when wrong is happening in our world; tempted to misuse their gifts for unwise purposes; tempted to allow untamed emotions to hold sway; tempted by the corrupting power of money; and those tempted to stay in a rut rather than strike out on new paths for Christ Jesus. Generous God, steer us through times of temptation, *and deliver us from evil.*

We pray for the many who feel pushed and tested almost beyond their endurance; those in positions of heavy responsibility who feel overloaded to the point of collapse; suffering people—and all who must watch a loved one suffer— who feel they can bear no more; kindly folk whose patience with a difficult friend is now at breaking point; persecuted Christians whose faith seems stretched beyond their limit; and the depressed whose inner being endures a misery which no human word can alleviate. Merciful God, steer us through times of temptation, *and deliver us from evil.*

We also pray for those who seem to be in a position of advantage: the happy, that their happiness may always be used for goodwill and compassion; the strong, that their energies may be used wisely and gently; for the rich, that their wealth may be shared for the uplifting of the poor; for the powerful, that they may use their position as a

blessing to humanity; and those of strong faith, that they may walk humbly and affirm the weaker souls. Righteous God, steer us through times of temptation, *and deliver us from evil.*

And now most Holy Friend, we pray for each other in this church. None of us know the extent of the pressures that some may be under this very day. Look upon us all, read our thoughts and weigh our feelings, and by your utter resourcefulness, “save us in the time of trial and deliver us from all evil.” Through Christ Jesus our Saviour, **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare for the Paschal Feast, let us make ready our hearts to reaffirm the covenant of our baptism. Let us ask God to bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and to disclose to us the secret purposes of our hearts.

How faithfully have we continued in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we persevered in resisting evil, and whenever we fell into sin, repented, and returned to the Lord?

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we proclaimed by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we sought and served Christ in all persons, loving our neighbours as ourselves?

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we worked for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we worked to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, respecting, sustaining, and renewing the life of the earth?

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Jesus, true vine and bread of life, ever giving yourself that the world might live, let us share your death and passion: make us perfect in your love. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and one another to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we injure others, you confront us in your love and call us to the paths of righteousness. You stand with the weak, and those, broken and alone, whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last, and the last first. Therefore, we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O Holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land. When your people were taken into exile you wept with them by the river of Babylon and carried them home.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

At the right time you sent your Anointed One to stand with the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed. Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them.

He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, “Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ’s death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come. Therefore, we proclaim our hope.

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you all whose lives are marked by suffering, our sisters and brothers. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom,
and teach us to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and
I shall be healed.**

THE COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION HYMN

CHOIR ANTHEM

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND BLESSING

Let us pray,
**Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of
a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and
King,**

**Faithful God, may we who share this banquet glory in the cross
of our Lord Jesus Christ, our salvation, life, and hope, who
reigns as Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to
you a contrite heart. **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by
his wounds. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. **Amen.**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN BEFORE THE DISMISSAL

DISMISSAL

Let us continue in our Lenten journey. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgements: (a) the collect of the day, 'Trial Use Collects for Years A, B, and C etc. Anglican Church of Canada', and the psalm, 'A Liturgical Psalter. General Synod 2016 Edition. For trial use within the Anglican Church of Canada.' Also, from "Becoming the Story We Tell," 31, 32 – introduction to confession, confession and absolution, (alt.), and Eucharistic prayer (S2). (b) Church of England's *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* (2006) greeting, 223; an affirmation of faith, 100; a prayer at the presentation of the gifts, 232; introduction to Lord's Prayer, 232; giving of communion, 276, and post communion prayers and the final blessings and dismissal, 235; (c) *Common Worship: Services and Prayers* (2000), kyries, 134; (d) *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), prayers of the people, alt., 380, and the Lord's Prayer.

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CHURCH.**