

Prayer at Home
Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 29, 2020

Notes/Instructions

- This may be prayed alone or as a family depending on how many people are in your home.
- You may gather at your kitchen table or at a prayer space in your home.
- Individuals may take turns proclaiming the readings.
- If you have a candle, family Bible, crucifix, etc., you may place them in the middle of your table/prayer space.
- If you have never led prayer before, do not worry. God always appreciates our efforts.
- You may remain seated for the entire prayer, but if you have children it may be helpful to stand for the Gather, Gospel Reading, and Sending Forth. If you are able, you may wish to kneel to pray the Spiritual Communion together.

Gather

Prayer Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God.
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Listen

First Reading: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel. (Ezekiel 37: 12-14)
(prophecy of restoration)

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8)

Our response is: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.
More than sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the LORD.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption;
And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. (Romans 8: 8-11)
(the flesh and the Spirit)

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,

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the one who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also,
through his Spirit dwelling in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Link to You Tube video of Gospel for children: <https://youtu.be/Dca8SSxXCmM>

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. (John 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45)
(the raising of Lazarus)

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.”

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Martha said,
“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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Key Passage: Jesus said to Martha, “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?” (Johan 11: 25-26)

Reflection Questions

Adult: How does belief in the final resurrection from the dead affect your family’s daily life?

Child: What do you hope heaven will be like?

Prayer Leader: Uniting our prayers as one we pray together the words Jesus gave us:
Our Father . . .

Spiritual Communion

(Pray this prayer together)

Prayer Leader: Let us pray.

All: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Sending Forth

Prayer Leader: Bless, O Lord, your people,
who long for the gift of your mercy,
and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire
they may receive by your generous gift.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer Leader: May almighty God bless us in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.