

Morning Prayer – March 29

*Families or small groups might gather, taking turns serving as “Leader” and others responding with words in **bold print**, or the entire service is said by one person, knowing that others are praying in the same way in their own locations.*

A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.

Lord, open our lips **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: **O come, let us worship.**

Jubilate - Psalm 100 (*Inclusive Language Psalter*)

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness and come into the divine presence with a song.

Know this: the Lord, the Lord, is God;

the One made us and to whom we belong;

we are God’s people, the sheep of God’s pasture.

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving;

go into these courts with praise;

give thanks to God and call upon the name of the Lord.

For the Lord is good, whose steadfast love is everlasting;

and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: **O come, let us worship.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Ezekiel 37:1-14 *New Revised Standard Version* 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 round 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, ‘Prophesy 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, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, 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 prophesy, 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.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130 (*Inclusive Language Psalter*)

1 Out of the depths have I called you, O Lord;

2 **Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**

3 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?

4 **For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.**

5 I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits for you; in your word is my hope.

6 **My soul waits for you, O Lord, more than sentinels for the morning,
more than sentinels for the morning.**

7 O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;

8 **with whom there is plenteous redemption,
and who shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Romans 8:6-11 *New Revised Standard Version*

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Music might be Inserted here, either a "live" offering of praise to God, or a recorded selection.

Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (11:1-45)

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.

The Gospel of Christ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

*Did anything stand out for you in this story while you heard it this time?
What does this story have to say to you today?*

Affirmation of Faith

**Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.
For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.
For ++Ron our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in the world.

For our own needs and those of others.
Silence. people may add their own petitions.
Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence. people may add their own thanksgivings
We will exalt you, O God; **And praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone,
that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence. The people may name their remembered dead
Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

Additional prayers may also be added here

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
Silence for reflection.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;
**in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

Collect for the 5th Sunday in Lent

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.**
Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

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. Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now

This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.

And from ALTERNATIVE COLLECTS FOR YEARS A, B & C OF THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY AND SEASONAL PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS AND AFTER COMMUNION Prepared by the Liturgy Task Force, Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee Of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf>

The Psalms are drawn from the Inclusive Language Psalter, commended for use by the Council of General Synod, March 2019 and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf>