

# The Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT - Passion Sunday



Hymn: Be thou my guardian and my guide.

1. Be thou my guardian and my guide,  
And hear me when I call;  
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,  
And hold me lest I fall.
2. The world, the flesh and Satan dwell  
Around the path I tread;  
O save me from the snares of hell,  
Thou quick'ner of the dead.
3. And if I tempted am to sin,  
And outward things are strong,  
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,  
And save my soul from sin.
4. Still let me ever watch and pray  
And feel that I am frail;  
That if the tempter cross my way,  
Yet he may not prevail.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Heavenly Father, all hearts are open to you. No secrets are hidden from you. Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit that we may love and worship you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

As we come into the presence of our heavenly Father let us seek his forgiveness of our sins that we may know his peace in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, you were sent to heal the contrite. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to call sinners. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you plead with us at the right hand of the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**Collect:** Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.**

**37. 1-14**

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, '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, 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.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 130      Response: Out of the depths, I cry to you O Lord.**

Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord. Lord hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! (R)

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. (R)

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope:  
my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning. (R)

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.  
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. (R)

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans      8. 6-11**

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him all you peoples.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John.      11. 1-45**

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Meditation:** All of us who have lost loved ones will sympathise with Martha and Mary as they mourn the loss of their brother Lazarus. We understand the grief and frustration felt by Martha as she calls out to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died.” Her words feel like a reproach full of the anger and bitterness which many of us may have felt, especially when our loss is sudden and unexpected. Jesus comes to Martha, his friend, and he listens to her, he takes all that she has to say to him and he comforts her with the words, “your brother will rise again.” Martha immediately reaffirms her faith in God and Jesus is taken to Lazarus’ tomb where Jesus calls to him and Lazarus emerges from the tomb, alive, to the astonishment of everyone present. The gospel, the good news of the raising of Lazaraus, is of the victory of hope over despair. In her despair at losing her brother Martha comes to Jesus and places her trust and her hope in him and he does not disappoint. Her brother is restored to her. The good news for us is that God is stronger than death and he will bring all who are his friends into eternal life. The raising of Lazarus is our reassurance that God shares the glory of his eternal life with us all and that one day, together with all our loved ones, we shall share the fullness of that glory in the fullness of heaven.

#### **Intercessions:**

In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world to our heavenly Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the leaders of the Church among them Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own ministry area; may the Church be faithful to your teaching in service of all.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought. We pray especially at this time for the people of the Middle East and the Ukraine; May the leaders of the nation’s seek to govern their people with compassion and justice.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community, for our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for all who serve the needs of the vulnerable; give us open and generous hearts to help us to love our neighbours as ourselves

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, for those who are sick, for those who are bereaved, for the lonely and isolated and for all in any kind of need. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time and all whose names are recorded in our intercession books; relieve them according to their need, strengthen them with your Holy Spirit and console them with the love of Christ.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died. We remember before God our own departed loved ones and we pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time; welcome them and all the departed into the eternal joy and peace of your heavenly kingdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring all our prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom,  
The power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### **The Peace:**

Jesus said, “Peace, I bequeath to you; my own peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

**And also with you.**

#### **Let us pray:**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### **The Blessing:**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The God of mercy transform you by his grace and give you strength to overcome temptation. and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: To God be the Glory.

1. To God be the glory! Great things he hath done;  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son;  
Who yielded his life and atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.  
*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!*  
*Let the people rejoice:*  
*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*  
*And give him the glory; great things he hath done.*
  
2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
to ev'ry believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.  
*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!*  
*Let the people rejoice:*  
*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*  
*And give him the glory; great things he hath done.*
  
3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.  
*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!*  
*Let the people rejoice:*  
*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*  
*And give him the glory; great things he hath done.*