

Sunday 26th March 2023

5th Sunday of Lent

Reading 1: Romans 8: 6 - 11

Psalm: 130

Gospel: John 11: 1 - 45

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

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm: 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Song: *(click link)* All my hope on God is founded https://youtu.be/YaP7CNrqF_k

Invitation to Confession:

The word of God is living and active.
It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him
to whom we give account.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Absolution:

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by His Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed be the Lord
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Reading 1: Romans 8: 6 – 11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

Gospel: John 11: 1 – 45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴But 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.' ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸ The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ 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.' ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ 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. ³² 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.' ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ 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.' ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² 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.' ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ 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.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Talk: (click link) <https://youtu.be/pnLrMhpC-rk>

Song: Before the throne of God <https://youtu.be/-50pFs0hRpg>

Let us declare our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let's pray to our Father God who loves us and understands our needs and our hearts cry for ourselves, for this world, our brothers and sisters in Jesus and for all those who we meet that we pray will one day be a part of your eternal kingdom. Amen.

Father God we pray that You will give us ears to hear and eyes to see what you are calling us to do in your service. However big, however small, help us in our journey with you to continually step out in faith and conquer any fear. We know that Your precious Son Jesus was moved to tears and suffered great anguish whilst here on earth but He never wavered from Your will for Him. Help us to do the same knowing we have your Holy spirit within us, the Spirit who gives us life and life in all its fullness.

Lord in Your mercy... Hear our prayer,

Father God as we meet here today in freedom to worship you, we give you thanks for the riches we have from You. We have our homes, our food, our clothing. We pray for those in the world who have lost everything through war or famine and displacement from their home countries, so many places struggling Father. Please open our eyes and our ears to see and hear where we can help in any way. You are an all-seeing God who watches over the nations of the world in all their plans

and actions, conflicts and disasters, please guard our children, our future generations, and guide the leaders of this country and the world to seek Your ways so that whatever is good may flourish and grow.

Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer

Father God you are a God of wholeness, you want us to live an abundant life with you. Revive us Father, energise us, hold us Lord in our times of suffering and those we walk alongside in theirs, sometimes a long road and weariness comes. We think today of those people we have on our bulletin and those in our hearts who need your touch today and in the coming days.

Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer

Father we thank you so much for the fellowship we've enjoyed in St Leonard's over our Warm and Toastie times after our services each week and it is with sadness that today is our last one. We thank you Lord for this lovely provision and for all the helpers who served us so faithfully each week and for those who came to share with us.

Father we also ask that you will prompt us to consider any of the roles needed within this Church as we come up to our Annual Meeting where there are positions to be filled. We pray for all who are being called by you into new ministries and we pray for those who are wrestling with extra demands upon them as they wait for someone to alleviate and share their load. Please give us all courage to offer ourselves in your service and to do our best for You.

Lord in Your Mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father God, in our journeying with You this day,
Open our eyes and ears Lord as we so want to see and hear Jesus and to be guided by His teaching from your Word and to become more like Him in our work and in our play.
Please be in all our thoughts and in all our talk that through them we may bring Glory to You.
Amen.

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Collect:

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world; lead us to ponder the mysteries of His passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviours blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

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
and 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 forever. Amen.

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves
and all that we offer to God
and give Him thanks.*

Song: (click link) In Christ Alone <https://youtu.be/ouGuG97l2RY>

Blessing:

God give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves,
take up your cross and follow him.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty;
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us, and remain with us
and all those whom we love,
now and forever.
Amen.

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.