**Morning Prayer for The Fifth Sunday of Lent** (*Passiontide begins*)

**Sunday 26 March 2023 at 9.30 (call in from 9.15)**

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85649430168?pwd=QzFzNytXM01TQTc5cTROaHc2aElvZz09

Meeting ID: 856 4943 0168

Passcode: 336782

**Telephone instructions:**

\* Dial: 0131 460 1196  
  
\* You are then welcomed to Zoom and asked to type in the meeting ID ie. 856 4943 0168  
  
\* If the next instruction is to add your personal ID just press # to ignore  
  
\* When passcode requested type numbers i.e. 336782 plus #.  
  
\* At this point you should be admitted to the call.

**Preparation**

O Lord, open our lips

*All* **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Let your ways be known upon earth,

*All* **your saving power among the nations.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief

your only Son was lifted up

that he might draw the whole world to himself.

May we walk this day in the way of the cross

and always be ready to share its weight,

declaring your love for all the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*A Song of Lamentation*

1 Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?

Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,

2 Which was brought upon me,

which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

3 For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;

for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.

4 Remember my affliction and my bitterness,

the wormwood and the gall!

5 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

6 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

his mercies never come to an end;

7 They are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

8 ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,

‘therefore I will hope in him.’

9 The Lord is good to those who wait for him,

to the soul that seeks him.

10 It is good that we should wait quietly

for the salvation of the Lord.

11 For the Lord will not reject for ever;

though he causes grief, he will have compassion,

12 According to the abundance of his steadfast love;

for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Lamentations 1.12, 16a,b; 3.19, 21-26, 31-33

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

so may the light of your presence, O God,

set our hearts on fire with love for you;

now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*Psalmody* Psalm 130

***Refrain* My soul waits for the Lord.**

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

Lord, hear my voice;

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2    If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,

O Lord, who could stand?

3    But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you shall be feared.

***Refrain* My soul waits for the Lord.**

4    I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;

in his word is my hope.

5    My soul waits for the Lord,

more than the night watch for the morning,

more than the night watch for the morning.

***Refrain* My soul waits for the Lord.**

6    O Israel, wait for the Lord,

for with the Lord there is mercy;

7    With him is plenteous redemption

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

***Refrain* My soul waits for the Lord.**

Father, we commend to your faithful love

those who are crying out from the depths;

help them to watch and pray

through their time of darkness,

in sure hope of the dawn of your

forgiveness and redemption;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Romans 8: 6-11*

**6**The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. **7**The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. **8**Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

**9**You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. **10**But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. **11**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Responsory*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

*All* **by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

*All* **We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.**

We preach Christ crucified,

the power of God and the wisdom of God.

*All* **By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

God forbid that I should glory,

save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*All* **We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;**

**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

*cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6*

*John 11: 1-45*

**11**Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2**(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) **3**So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

**4**When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” **5**Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6**So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, **7**and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

**8**“But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

**9**Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. **10**It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

**11**After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

**12**His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” **13**Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

**14**So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, **15**and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

**16**Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

**17**On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. **18**Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, **19**and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. **20**When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

**21**“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22**But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

**23**Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

**24**Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

**25**Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26**and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

**27**“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

**28**After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” **29**When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. **30**Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31**When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

**32**When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

**33**When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. **34**“Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

**35**Jesus wept.

**36**Then 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?”

**38**Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. **39**“Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

**40**Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

**41**So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42**I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

**43**When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **44**The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

**45**Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We pause to reflect on God’s word*

**Prayers**

God of comfort and peace, we place in your tender care those who mourn the death of a loved one, those where the passing is recent, those for whom it is a time of anniversary and those for whom the pain never seems to get any better. May your love strengthen and support them.

Comfort those who mourn,  
**and fill them with your peace**

God of yesterday and today, we pray for those who are devastated by their current situations. We remember the people of cities in Ukraine that have been destroyed in the war; the people of Syria and Turkey who lost homes and livelihoods in the recent earthquake; those who have lost jobs because of the current economic situation. May your wisdom encourage and guide them.

Comfort those who mourn,  
**and fill them with your peace**

God of power and love, we pray for our planet. You are at the heart of creation and the beautiful world that you have made is being destroyed. Give strength and wisdom to those offering advice and those making decisions concerning the changes that are happening to our planet. May our actions be in time to preserve what you created.

Comfort those who mourn,  
**and fill them with your peace**

God of today and tomorrow. Your grace is eternal and knows no ending. We pray for those who have lost hope as a result of the cost of living crisis; those who are fearful of what the future holds; those who do not know how they will pay for food or heating. We pray for those awaiting test results who are worried that they will receive bad news and do not know how they will cope. May the promise of new life enable them to face tomorrow.

Comfort those who mourn,  
**and fill them with your peace**

May your love bring comfort and strength and peace to all those who need it for whatever reason. In silence we name before you any about whom we are especially concerned at this time.

Silence

Hear our prayer, Gracious God. For we offer it in the name of our Saviour Jesus and for his sake.  
**Amen.**

*The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent*

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

Standing at the foot of the cross,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **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.**

*The Blessing*

Christ crucified draw us to himself,

to find in him a sure ground for faith,

a firm support for hope,

and the assurance of sins forgiven;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and remain with us,

and those we love and for whom we pray,

this day and forever.

*All* **Amen.**

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**Future Events**

**Agape Meal**

**Thursday 6 April at 6.30pm Agape Meal Washfield Village Hall**

Do please join us for an Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday evening. For catering purposes, it would be good to know numbers, so please let the office know, if you would like to come. Everyone is very welcome.

**Coffee Morning Wednesday 12 April 2023 at 10.00am**

Please make a note that we will be meeting for coffee at the Tiverton Golf Club on Wednesday 12th April at 10.00am. It would be helpful if you can let Sally Mundy (01884 254378) or Stephen Roche (07811139031) know if you are coming.

**The Exe Valley Choir**

The Choir will be singing at Pentecost, **Sunday 28th May at St. Mary the Virgin Calverleigh** at 10.45am. If you would like to join the choir, please contact Claire Curtis on 07873 575276 for more details. Please note the change of venue from what was advertised last week.

**Giving**

To give to the Exe Valley Mission Community by BACS, please use account number 54731690 and sort code 60-21-27. Please use the reference *EVMC services*.

To give to St Peter’s Church, please go to [www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk](http://www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk) and follow the donations link on the front page of the website.

Thank you for your support. It is much appreciated.