

Douglas Union with Frankfield
5th Sunday in Lent (Passion Sunday)

29 March 2020

A SHORT SERVICE TO BE USED AT HOME

Prepared by Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson

*(Where two or more people are gathered for worship the sentences in **bold type** are read by all)*

Sentence

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. *(1 Peter 2:24)*

Introduction

This Sunday is sometimes known as 'Passion Sunday' as it marks the beginning of the two weeks of Passiontide (from the Latin word *passio* meaning suffering) leading up to Easter. The Church commemorates the sufferings of our Lord during the last days of his earthly life. While we are all trying to cope with life at present and are aware of the suffering of so many people in the world, it is helpful to remember that God understands.

Penitence

Calling to mind the heavy cost of human sin, and the price Jesus paid to forgive it, we confess our sins in confidence that we will be forgiven...

Lord God, you sent your Son to reconcile us to yourself and to one another.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division.

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, through you we put to death the sins of the body and live.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Merciful Lord, grant to us your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord open our lips

And our mouth will 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 shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord

The Lord's name be praised.

Canticle 19 - Saviour of the World

- 1 Jesus, Saviour of the world,
 come to us in your mercy:
 we look to you to save and help us.
- 2 By your cross and your life laid down,
 you set your people free:
 we look to you to save and help us.
- 3 When they were ready to perish, you saved your disciples:
 we look to you to come to our help.
- 4 In the greatness of your mercy, loose us from our chains,
 forgive the sins of all your people.
- 5 Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty deliverer;
 save and help us that we may praise you.
- 6 Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus:
 hear our prayer and be with us always.
- 7 And when you come in your glory:
 make us to be one with you
 and to share the life of your kingdom.

The First Reading

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, prophecy, 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.’

Psalm 130

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

The New Testament Reading

John 11:1-45

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.

Recorded reflection by Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson *(attached separately to the email)*

Prayers and Thanksgivings *(These may be read privately, or you can join in prayer with Adrian by opening the prayer attachment with the email)*

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect of the day

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lent Collect

Almighty God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain for you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions

Remembering the trials endured by Jesus Christ, we pray for all who suffer today: Christ, born in a shelter for animals, **give hope to the homeless today.**

Christ, who fled from Herod's brutal power, **guide our President, Government and all in authority, in the paths of peace.**

Christ who fasted in the wilderness, **give bread to the hungry.**

Christ, who resisted temptation, **grant us strength to stand against evil.**

Christ, who gave up comfort and security to do God's will, **lead us to seek God's kingdom first.**

Christ, who in the Garden, wrestled with doubt and fear, **bring the lost out of darkness and confusion into your light.**

Christ, who was condemned and tortured for crimes he never committed, **bring justice to all who are unfairly treated.**

Christ, who felt pain, loneliness and humiliation as he hung on the cross, **grant healing and hope to all sick and suffering people.**

Christ, buried in a borrowed tomb, we remember those who have died, **grant us, with them, a share in life eternal. Amen.**

Dear Lord, you are the maker of heaven and earth. As we face the Coronavirus pandemic help us to lift our eyes to you. May your peace be with those who are feeling anxious, your strength be with those working to keep others safe, your comfort be with those who are grieving. May your wisdom light the way for those making decisions, your healing be upon those who are unwell, your hope fill those

who are fearful of the future and may your compassion prompt us to love our neighbours. Keep us from harm, watch over our coming and going, both now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for all the benefits you have one for us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us. Most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**