

Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word at Home

Liturgical Ministries:

- Leader.
- Three Lectors
- Volunteer to lead reflection on the Word

It might help to prepare the space for prayer. Perhaps clear a table, place a cloth on it, and present the Bible prominently in the middle. Lighting candles on the table and sitting around it will also be of help.

Note: *Leader's words are italicized. The assembly's responses are in bold.*

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Greeting

Leader: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*

All: Amen

Let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ, who is present among us and in his Word, and who keeps us united in love. Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God forever.

Introduction

*Once again, we gather to be the Church of Christ.
Christ is with us, as he promised: present in this assembly of his people,
And in the proclamation of his word.*

Today we celebrate the fifth Sunday of Lent. In our readings for today, Ezekiel gives bold encouragement to a people whose spirits have faded during their exile. The Psalmist reminds us of that God's free gift of mercy is always available to us, and St. Paul explains what it means to have the Spirit of God dwell in us. Jesus has a very human encounter with Martha and Mary upon the death of his friend, and their brother, Lazarus.

Penitential Rite

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**I confess to almighty God
And to you, my brothers and sisters,
That I have greatly sinned
In my thoughts and in my words
In what I have done and
In what I have failed to do,
(striking chest) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault,
Therefore I ask the blessed Mary ever-virgin,
All the angles and saints,
And you, my brothers and sisters,
To pray for me to the Lord our God.**

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

Amen.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Let us pray.

*By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
May we walk eagerly in that same charity
With which, out of love for the world,
Your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.*

Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First reading | Ezekiel 37:12-14

Reader: *A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.*

[Text from Lectionary]

Thus says the Lord GOD:

O my people, I will open your graves
and have you rise from them,
and bring you back to the land of Israel.

Then you shall know that I am the LORD,
when I open your graves and have you rise
from them,

O my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may live,
and I will settle you upon your land;
thus you shall know that I am the LORD.

I have promised, and I will do it, says the
LORD.

[Text from [Pflaum Children's Lectionary](#)]

The Lord said to Ezekiel:

Tell the people that I, the Lord God,
promise to open their graves and set them
free, so they can go home to their land.

When I let them out of their graves,
they will know that I am the Lord.

My Spirit will give them breath.

They will live again,

and I will bring them back home.

Then they will know that I, the Lord God,
have kept my promise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4; 5-6; 7-8

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

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

LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to my voice in supplication.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,

LORD, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness,

that you may be revered.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

I trust in the LORD;

my soul trusts in his word.

More than sentinels wait for the dawn,

let Israel wait for the LORD.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

For with the LORD is kindness

and with him is plenteous redemption;

And he will redeem Israel

from all their iniquities.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading | Romans 8:8-11

Reader: *A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians.*

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh;

on the contrary, you are in the spirit,

if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you,

although the body is dead because of sin,

the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,

the one who raised Christ from the dead

will give life to your mortal bodies also,

through his Spirit dwelling in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation | John 11:25A, 26

Reader: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;

whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

Gospel | John 11:1-45

Reader: *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Text from Lectionary]

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany,
the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
Mary was the one who had anointed the
Lord with perfumed oil
and dried his feet with her hair;
it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.
So the sisters sent word to him saying,
“Master, the one you love is ill.”
When Jesus heard this he said,
“This illness is not to end in death,
but is for the glory of God,
that the Son of God may be glorified
through it.”
Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and
Lazarus.
So when he heard that he was ill,
he remained for two days in the place
where he was.
Then after this he said to his disciples,
“Let us go back to Judea.”
The disciples said to him,
“Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone
you,
and you want to go back there?”
Jesus answered,
“Are there not twelve hours in a day?
If one walks during the day, he does not
stumble,
because he sees the light of this world.
But if one walks at night, he stumbles,
because the light is not in him.”
He said this, and then told them,
“Our friend Lazarus is asleep,
but I am going to awaken him.”
So the disciples said to him,
“Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”
But Jesus was talking about his death,
while they thought that he meant ordinary

[Text from [Pflaum Children’s Lectionary](#)]

When Jesus heard this, he said, “His sickness
won’t end in death. It will bring glory to
God and his Son.”
Jesus loved Martha and her sister and
brother. But he stayed where he was for
two more days. Then he said to his
disciples, “Now we’ll go back to Judea.”
When Jesus got to Bethany, he found that
Lazarus had already been in the tomb four
days. When Martha heard that Jesus had
arrived, she went out to meet him, but
Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to
Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my
brother would not have died. Yet even
now I know that God will do anything you
ask.”
Jesus told her, “Your brother will live again!”
Martha answered, “I know that he will be
raised to life on the last day, when all the
dead are raised.”
Jesus then said, “I am the one who raises the
dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me
will live, even if they die. And everyone
who lives because of faith in me will never
die. Do you believe this?”
“Yes, Lord!” she replied. “I believe that you
are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one
we hoped would come into the world.”
Many people had come to comfort Mary, and
when they saw her quickly leave the
house, they thought she was going out to
the tomb to cry. So they followed her.
Mary went to where Jesus was. Then as soon
as she saw him, she knelt at his feet
and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my
brother would not have died.”
When Jesus saw that Mary and the people
with her were crying, he was terribly upset

sleep.
So then Jesus said to them clearly,
“Lazarus has died.
And I am glad for you that I was not there,
that you may believe.
Let us go to him.”
So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his
fellow disciples,
“Let us also go to die with him.”
When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus
had already been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only
about two miles away.
And many of the Jews had come to Martha
and Mary
to comfort them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,
she went to meet him;
but Mary sat at home.
Martha said to Jesus,
“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that whatever you ask
of God,
God will give you.”
Jesus said to her,
“Your brother will rise.”
Martha said to him,
“I know he will rise,
in the resurrection on the last day.”
Jesus told her,
“I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will
live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me
will never die.
Do you believe this?”
She said to him, “Yes, Lord.
I have come to believe that you are the
Christ, the Son of God,
the one who is coming into the world.”
When she had said this,
she went and called her sister Mary
secretly, saying,

and asked, “Where have you put his
body?”
They replied, “Lord, come and you will see.”
Jesus started crying, and the people said,
“See how much he loved Lazarus.”
Some of them said, “He gives sight to the
blind. Why couldn’t he have kept Lazarus
from dying?”
Jesus was still terribly upset. So he went to
the tomb, which was a cave with a stone
rolled against the entrance. Then he told
the people to roll the stone away. But
Martha said, “Lord, you know that Lazarus
has been dead four days, and there will be
a bad smell.”
Jesus replied, “Didn’t I tell you that if you had
faith, you would see the glory of God?”
After the stone had been rolled aside, Jesus
looked up toward heaven and prayed,
“Father, I thank you for answering my
prayer. I know that you always answer my
prayers. But I said this, so that the people
here would believe that you sent me.”
When Jesus had finished praying, he shouted,
“Lazarus, come out!” The man who had
been dead came out. His hands and feet
were wrapped with strips of burial cloth,
and a cloth covered his face.
Jesus then told the people, “Untie him and
let him go.”
Many of the people who had come to visit
Mary saw the things that Jesus did, and
they put their faith in him.

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

“The teacher is here and is asking for you.”

As soon as she heard this,
she rose quickly and went to him.

For Jesus had not yet come into the village,
but was still where Martha had met him.

So when the Jews who were with her in the
house comforting her
saw Mary get up quickly and go out,
they followed her,
presuming that she was going to the tomb
to weep there.

When Mary came to where Jesus was and
saw him,

she fell 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 had come with her weeping,
he became perturbed and deeply troubled,
and said,

“Where have you laid him?”

They said to him, “Sir, come and see.”

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.”

But some of them said,

“Could not the one who opened the eyes of
the blind man
have done something so that this man
would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him,
“Lord, by now there will be a stench;
he has been dead for four days.”

Jesus said to her,

“Did I not tell you that if you believe
you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said,

“Father, I thank you for hearing me.

I know that you always hear me;

but because of the crowd here I have said

this,
that they may believe that you sent me.”
And when he had said this,
He cried out in a loud voice,
“Lazarus, come out!”
The dead man came out,
tied hand and foot with burial bands,
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them,
“Untie him and let him go.”
Now many of the Jews who had come to
Mary
and seen what he had done began to
believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Shared Reflection on the Word

If your pastor has shared with you a reflection on this week's readings, please share that with the group at this time. Following are question for prayer to help people discuss their reaction to the readings and, if available, the reflections provided by the clergy.

- [if available] How will the homily you heard help you live these readings over the next week?
- [if available] How has the homily offered a positive challenge to how to live our faith at this time?
- What images, phrases, or notions from the readings most impacted you? Why?
- Do you notice a consistent theme across today's readings? Where in the readings do you find this theme?
- What kind of encouragement does Ezekiel give to a people in exile? Do you need this encouragement now? How can you share this encouragement with others?
- What does the psalm teach us about mercy and how the Lord shares it with us?
- How does St. Paul help you understand the role of the Spirit in your life? Does the Spirit of God dwell in you? Give examples.
- Martha is not afraid to be honest with Jesus. Have you ever been able to speak to Jesus as Martha does here? If you could, what would you say to him?

General Intercessions

We pray for our Church, that we may continue to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love during this difficult time. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders in our Church, that they may be encouraged in faith as they make difficult decisions in the interest of public health and safety. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those clergy who are not able to celebrate with their parishioners, that they remain bold in spirit and consoled in their vocations. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our civic leaders, that they respond attentively to those who are in need during this time of difficulty. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the needs of those who have no one to pray for them, and for those who are very much alone during this time of social distance, that we as people of faith might find creative ways to console their spirits. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for healthcare workers, that they may remain safe, healthy, and cared for themselves during this time of stress. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For whom and for what else shall we pray at this time?

[after the last prayer, pause a few moments]

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Profession of Faith

Let us together profess the mark of our faith:

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(bowing) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

(standing upright) **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

At the savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

Our Father...

*Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil
Graciously grant peace in our days,
That, by the help of your mercy,
We may be always free from sin
And safe from all distress,
As we await the blessed hope
And coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Kiss of Peace

[The Kiss of Peace may be omitted during the course of the virus.]

Let us offer each other the sign of Christ's peace.

Concluding Prayer

*We pray, almighty God,
That we may always be counted among the members of Christ,
In whose Body and Blood we have communion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

Amen.

Concluding Rite

(While all make the sign of the cross)

May almighty God bless us,

Protect us from all evil,

And bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Let us go in peace, glorifying the Lord by our lives.

Thanks be to God!