

# *A Liturgy of the Word Fifth Sunday in Lent*

*Date : 26 March 2023*

The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

*Hymn*



O for a closer walk with God,  
a calm and heavenly frame,  
a light to shine upon the road  
that leads me to the Lamb!

Where is the blessedness I knew  
when first I sought the Lord?  
Where is the soul refreshing view  
of Jesus and his Word?

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!  
How sweet their memory still!  
But they have left an aching void  
the world can never fill.

The dearest idol I have known,  
whate'er that idol be,  
help me to tear it from thy throne  
and worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,  
calm and serene my frame;  
so purer light shall mark the road  
that leads me to the Lamb.

Author: William Cowper

Turn, O Lord, and deliver me  
**Save me for the sake of your steadfast love**

For in death there is no remembrance of you;  
**In Sheol who will give you praise?**

My soul waits for the Lord  
**More than watchmen for the morning; my soul waits for the Lord**

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



## Call to Worship



Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

## The Penitence



When the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. Though the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good, sin produced death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin and, through the commandment, might become sinful beyond measure. (Rom 7:9-13)

## Collect for Purity



**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.**



## Absolution



May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace,  
may he forgive and cleanse you,  
in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## The Collect



God of all consolation and hope  
you breathe life into dry bones and weary souls:  
pour out your Spirit upon us,  
that we may face despair and death

in the hope of resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

### *The Word of God*



Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

### *Gospel Reading*



Gospel: John 11:1-45

### *The Sermon*



The Revd Dave Edwards

### *Affirmation of Faith*



**I believe and trust in God the Father  
who made the world.**

**I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ  
Who redeemed humankind.**

**I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit  
who gives life to the people of God.**

**I believe and trust in one God  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**

### *Prayers of Intercession*



Let us take opportunity to make prayer and intercession for all in need.

As we draw ever closer to the events of Holy Week, we thank you, Lord, that you have journeyed with us thus far on our Lenten journeys. As individuals, and as a community of God's faithful, may we be witnesses to your life, love and goodness. In the face of trial and adversity, keep us mindful of your faithfulness and grant us the strength to persevere.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for our land, those who govern it, and all who live in it. We pray for all conditions which may lead to disquiet and unrest – unemployment, ailing infrastructure, poor service delivery, rising living costs. Protect those most marginal and vulnerable within our society. And help all role-players, both in public and private sectors, to work towards creating a better South Africa.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Gracious Father, in your Word we see how your Holy Spirit breathes life into lifeless situations. Help us to be agents of your life-giving power and, even within our own contexts, whether at home, in the workplace, or at church, where situations require renewal, reform or repentance, help us to act according to our convictions and witness to your truth.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Your friends, Mary and Martha, were faced with a situation of hopelessness, at the death of their brother. And yet, you made a way and brought Lazarus back. When we are faced with situations of hopelessness, be it the loss of a loved one, the loss of a marriage, the loss of a job, or a general despondency at life's circumstances, help us to call upon you, Lord, our rock and redeemer.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, Jesus, you not only comforted Mary and Martha in their hour of sorrow, but you accompanied them in their mourning. Help us to draw alongside all who are experiencing sorrow or loss at this point. We pray for those whose year's mind occurs this week. We pray for those who are ill or ailing. And we remember before you the souls of all the faithful departed who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Finally, gracious Father, as we cast our gaze toward the palms awaiting us at the gates of Jerusalem, we know that these bode both of good and bad. Be with the Church universal as we continue our Lenten journeys. Sustain and strengthen our Archbishop, Thabo, and our Bishop, Steve. We commend to your keeping those who may yet pass away this Lent; may we, together with all your saints, live to ever give you praise and honour.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We make these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead.

**Amen**

*Prayer for Offering* 

God of grace and providence, you shower us with every good gift and for this we thank you. The birds of the air neither sow nor reap and yet you feed them. Indeed, you care for all your creatures. We now give back to you a small measure of what you have blessed us with. We ask you to set this apart for the work of your kingdom and the spreading of your Good News. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*Lord's Prayer* 

**Our Father in heaven**

**hallowed be your Name**

**your kingdom come**

**your will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**And deliver us from evil.**

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

## Final Hymn



The Spirit Lives To Set Us Free,  
Walk, Walk In The Light.  
He Binds Us All In Unity,  
Walk, Walk In The Light.  
Walk-In The Light,  
Walk-In The Light,  
Walk-In The Light,  
Walk-In The Light Of The Lord.

Jesus Promised Life To All,  
Walk, Walk In The Light.  
The Dead Were Wakened By His Call,  
Walk, Walk In The Light.  
Walk-In The Light,  
Walk-In The Light,  
Walk-In The Light,  
Walk-In The Light Of The Lord.

He Died In Pain On Calvary,  
Walk, Walk In The Light.  
To Save The Lost Like You And Me,  
Walk, Walk In The Light.  
Walk-In The Light,  
Walk-In The Light,  
Walk-In The Light,  
Walk-In The Light Of The Lord.

Author: Damian Lundy

## Final Blessing



We worship a God who calls forth from the grave.  
Know that no matter how hopeless your situation may seem,  
where there is Christ, there is hope.  
And now may the God of the living and the dead protect,  
preserve and keep you, that you may be presented before his throne,  
holy and blameless. In the name of the Father,  
and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## Dismissal



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**



*Giving* 

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