

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, MUMBLES

HOME PRAYER SERVICE FOR SUNDAYS

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A, 29 March 2020

This home prayer service can be used by a single person (sole participant) or by family members at home. Where there are two or more persons, a family member leads the prayer service (including reading the reflection). Where possible, the participant(s) should have the prayer service around a table with a lighted candle, a crucifix and a Bible (or missal).

ENTRANCE SONG (OR ANTIPHON)

An opening song may be sung or the following antiphon is recited. All stand.

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

We begin with the sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

A leader or the sole participant says:

Blessed be the God of all consolation, who has shown us his great mercy. Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Response: Blessed be God for ever.

INTRODUCTION

Where there are two or more persons in the house, the leader introduces the celebration in these or similar words:

We gather to be the Church of Christ. Christ is with us, as he promised: present in this assembly of his people, in the proclamation of God's word. Let us reflect on the word and pray together Today we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

PENITENTIAL ACT

The sole participant or leader introduces the penitential act saying:

Let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves for this celebration.

A brief pause for silence follows.

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, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The sole participant or the leader says:

May almighty God have mercy on us,

forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Response: Amen.

COLLECT

The sole participant or leader says the Collect Prayer:

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.

Response: Amen.

READINGS

After each reading a brief silence is observed. It is desirable to take all the readings with the responsorial psalm, all of which are available in the Sunday Missal. Where all readings of the Sunday cannot be taken, the Gospel (printed below) is read. The one who reads the Gospel, if not a priest or deacon, does not say "The Lord be with you." but begins with "A reading from the holy Gospel according to..."

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 129 r. 7

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel Acclamation: John 11: 25-26

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Gospel (shorter ver.): John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had

come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

The sole participant or leader reads a homily prepared by the priest; or may give a short reflection on the scripture readings of the day. The reflection is followed by a period of silence.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The creed is said:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and 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 into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there 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 life everlasting. Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The General Intercessions are said.

Leader: Through Christ our Redeemer, let us draw near to our loving Father in prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for the Church that she may be preserved through the power of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray that those who are sick with the coronavirus may regain their health through quality medical care and may those who have died from the virus find eternal rest with God. Lord, in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: In thanksgiving to the Lord, we pray for parishioners who mark their birthdays this week: Noreen Hyden, Kirsten Kieft, Stephanie Jefferies, Jack Law, Anita George. May the Lord bless and keep them. Lord, in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer.

[Other petitions may be added, after which the Our Father is introduced in these or similar words]:

Reader: Let us pray to our Father in the words Our Saviour taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

After a brief period of silence, the Prayer of Spiritual Communion is said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

A song of thanksgiving may be sung after the prayer of spiritual communion.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The sole participant or leader says the concluding prayer:

May your healing work, O Lord, free us, we pray, from doing evil and lead us to what is right. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The sole participant or leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the Sign of the Cross while saying the following:

May almighty God bless us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.