



March 26, 2023
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
10:45am

Welcome

Opening Song*

He Is Able

A Penitential Order

Clergy Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Clergy

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8,9

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All **Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift: You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us. We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others. We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience. We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression. Forgive us, Holy God. Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people. Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever. Amen.**

Clergy

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Clergy The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Clergy Let us pray.

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Holy Gospel

John 11: 1-45

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Narrator: A certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This was the Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one whom you love is ill." When he heard this, Jesus said,

Jesus: "This illness isn't fatal. It's for the glory of God so that God's Son can be glorified through it."

Narrator: Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, he said to his disciples,

Jesus: "Let's return to Judea again."

Narrator: The disciples replied,

Congregation: **"Rabbi, the Jewish opposition wants to stone you, but you want to go back?"**

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "Aren't there twelve hours in the day? Whoever walks in the day doesn't stumble because they see the light of the world. But whoever walks in the night does stumble because the light isn't in them."

Narrator: He continued,

Jesus: "Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up."

Narrator: The disciples said,

Congregation: **"Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get well."**

Narrator: They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus had spoken about Lazarus' death. Jesus told them plainly,

Jesus: "Lazarus has died. For your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there so that you can believe. Let's go to him."

Narrator: Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other disciples,

Thomas: "Let us go too so that we may die with Jesus."

Narrator: When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus,

Martha: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you.”

Narrator: Jesus told her,

Jesus: “Your brother will rise again.”

Narrator: Martha replied,

Martha: “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.”

Narrator: Jesus said to her,

Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Narrator: She replied,

Martha: “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God’s Son, the one who is coming into the world.”

Narrator: After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary,

Martha: “The teacher is here and he’s calling for you.”

Narrator: When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. He hadn’t entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb. When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said,

Mary: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.”

Narrator: When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked,

Jesus: “Where have you laid him?”

Narrator: They replied,

Congregation: **“Lord, come and see.”**

Narrator: Jesus began to cry. The Jews said,

Congregation: **“See how much he loved him!”**

Narrator: But some of them said,

Congregation: **“He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”**

Narrator: Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said,

Jesus: “Remove the stone.”

Narrator: Martha, the sister of the dead man, said,

Martha: “Lord, the smell will be awful! He’s been dead four days.”

Narrator: Jesus replied,

Jesus: “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?”

Narrator: So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said,

Jesus: “Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me.”

Narrator: Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice,

Jesus: “Lazarus, come out!”

Narrator: The dead man came out, his feet bound, and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: “Untie him and let him go.”

Narrator: Therefore, many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Elder Melody Smith-Johnson

Litany for Racial Justice

Siblings in Christ, God created the whole human family in God’s own image. God calls us to listen to the prophets who have come before us and those that live among us. God commands us to love God, love our neighbors, and love ourselves.

In baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves. We promise to strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being. We promise that whenever we fall into sin, we will repent and return to the Lord. We promise these things, knowing we will need God’s help. We come today, asking for God’s help. We gather to pray for all whose lives have been forever altered by racial violence. Today we remember every life lost to police brutality, racial injustice, and white supremacy. God of love and justice, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who protest, for those who speak truth to power, for those who work for justice, for those who offer medical aid, for those who clean up communities when there is damage and destruction, and for those who feed and care for their neighbor. God of the people, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world. God of peace and gentleness, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all children and families, and particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, and those who live in fear of violence or disease; that they may be comforted and protected. We pray especially for those who have had family members taken from them because of their race, ethnicity, or gender. God of children and families, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws. God of fellowship and equality, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our siblings throughout the world; for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future. God of generosity and compassion, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims from around the world, that they may be welcomed in our midst and be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. God of outcasts and wanderers, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society; we pray also for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and poor; and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice. God of all gifts and blessings, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all prisoners and captives; that a spirit of forgiveness may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we, with all the destitute, lonely, and oppressed, may be restored to the fullness of God's grace. God of absolution and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the aged and the infirm; for those with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care; and that God's loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer. God of comfort and healing, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all nations, that we may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give. God of liberty and freedom, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that we may be good stewards of creation; that we will have the tools and the will to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better caretakers of all that has been entrusted to us. God of nature and the universe, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that it may be an instrument of your healing love. God of outreach and restoration, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of neglect, hardness of heart, or because we have willfully ignored the plight of our neighbor. God of eternal life and resurrecting love, **hear our prayer.**

Clergy Creator of all people, in our amazing diversity of size, shape, color, and giftedness: guide us, by your grace, to recognize the beauty and fitness of all whom you have made in your own image. Give us gifts of humility and generosity of spirit to recognize in all people, the face of our Savior, Jesus, and to practice his commandment to "love one another," toward the end of bringing harmony and peace among persons of all colors, origins, and abilities, for the sake of your Kingdom. Amen.

The Peace

Clergy The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Anniversary & Birthday Blessings

May the strength of God pilot you, May the power of God preserve you, May the wisdom of God instruct you, May the hand of God protect you, May the way of God direct you, May the shield of God guard you against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May the Spirit of God bless you in the coming year. *Adapted from Patrick, c.389 - c.46*

Offering*

In God's Presence

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, holy, holy Lord,
 God of power and might,
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

Great Thanksgiving Continues

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Clergy Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
All Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Communion

Music at Communion*

Lift Up Your Voices Now

The Postcommunion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn*

My Life, My Love, My All

Dismissal

Clergy Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

***Special thanks to the music ministry of
The Black Celestial Choral Ensemble of Syracuse University.
For more information about them, please find their program at the entrances.**

Rector	The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper
Deacon	The Rev. Dr. Charles N. Stewart
Organist/Choirmaster	Kip Coerper
Director of Contemporary Music & Technology	Michael Larkin
Assistant Director of Contemporary Music & Technology	Nick Kilkenny
Media Engineer	Danae Hidy
Prayers of the People & Chalice	Sr. Marie Patricia Hughes
Lector	Kathy Ploufe
Ushers	Brian & Chris Davis

Credits:

*“A Year of Prayers to End Racism” from the Diocese of West Virginia’s Commission to End Racism.
The Episcopal Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministries.*

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