



Holy Nativity



The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020

Website Version: holynativityparish.org

A Reading from the Hebrew Scripture 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 around 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, "Prophesy 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, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, 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 called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?**
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore 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 watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.**
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;**
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

A Reading from the New Testament Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to 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 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 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 upward 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.



The Prayers of the People

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our voices and be attentive to our prayers.

We pray for those whose hope is lost, who feel cut off from you. By your grace, open their hearts; bring them back to life in you.

We pray for those who are oppressed, held captive by the power of death. Release them from their fears; unbind them and set them free.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

We pray for those who weep, lost in fear and regret. Grant them the peace of your presence; show them what your love can do.

We pray for those who are dying. Help them to believe your promise that they may live forever in your grace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

Out of the Depths We Cry Out to You in the Face of the Coronavirus,
Creator God of the universe, God of a thousand names and faces, divine source of health and wholeness, whose compassion embraces the entire community of Earth:
behold your fearful people all over the world as we confront the Coronavirus.
God, hear our voices. Let your ear be attentive to our cries (Psalm 130:1-2) as we pray for all who may be affected by the virus.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord; hear us.

For teachers and professors, coaches and cafeteria workers at schools and universities across the world and students everywhere.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord; hear us.

For the homeless huddling for warmth over steam grates and under urban bridges;
For the poor, the lonely, the vulnerable, migrants, and the isolated elderly who
have no protectors.

Let us pray to the Lord.
Hear us, Lord; hear us.

For clergy and people who have eaten the bread of life, drunk from the common cup and passed the sign of peace.

For all who have tested positive, all who are waiting for test results, and all who are quarantined.

For all who have already died of the Coronavirus, now free from pain and suffering. May the God of hope carry them all the way home and comfort their families and friends.

Let us pray to the Lord.
Hear us, Lord; hear us.

Loving God, hasten the day when the virus will have run its course; quicken scientists to develop medications and vaccines. Call out the best instincts of your people—love, neighborliness, compassion, and a sense of caring for every member of your beloved community on Earth. We pray out of the depths to you, O God of hope, whom we call Jesus, Allah, YHWH, Divine Mystery, Great Spirit. Amen.



The Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins to God.

People: **God of all mercy,**
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider: May God love you and have mercy on you;
Through the cross of Christ, pardon you and set you free.
God forgives you. Forgive others. Forgive yourself.
In the name of the Source, the Word, and the Spirit. **Amen.**

May the peace of God be always with you.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Sursum Corda is a form of introduction to prayer.
Here begins the Great Thanksgiving.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues.

Praise and thanksgiving belong to you, God of every blessing, for you shaped all creation to grow into your abundant and eternal harvest. You called a holy people to share life with you, and when they were captive in Egypt, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, you brought them out of oppression through the temptations of the wilderness into a land flowing with milk and

honey. In time, your Son came among us, facing wilderness and temptation and hunger to bring us out of bondage to sin and to taste and see that you, the Lord, are good.

And so we thank you with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven as we join the unending hymn:

Sanctus

**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.

The Presider continues.

God of mercy, you gave your people manna day by day during their time of testing; and because no one can live by bread alone, you gave Jesus to be our bread from heaven. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church to live as a sign of the way you transform this manna into mercy for all. With your Spirit, bless this bread and this cup that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At supper with his disciples, Jesus took bread, he gave you thanks, he broke the bread, and he gave it to them, saying, "Take; eat. This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Presider: Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider continues.

Faithful God, whose Son did not escape suffering and death but accepted and finally overcame them, bring your disciples by the way of his cross to the joy of Easter. Strengthen your church to resist evil of every kind and turn from sin. With your mighty hand and outstretched arm, uphold those enduring trials and any who know their very life is at stake. Be with your children who are heavy laden and all who labor beneath the misuse of power by another.

Amid temptations to be successful, shape your children first to be faithful to your kingdom until the day when in your resurrected glory there is one life, one sharing, one holy communion among all the saints with you to whom all glory belongs forever, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Presider says:

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Everyone says.

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Invitation

Presider: Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.



The Holy Communion

The Post-Communion Prayer

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for the free and abundant gift of grace
you have given us in Jesus Christ.

Let the simple gifts of our lives
be a sign of our unending gratitude
for your undying love
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

Presider: Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone. Nor do we have to be afraid, for the Word of God strengthens us and the Holy Spirit guides our path.

And may the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's son, Jesus Christ. May the blessing of God, our mother and father, and of Jesus, who redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit, who sustains us, be with us this day and forevermore. Amen.

Presider: Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of people who share our joy
in the peace and love of God with our children and neighbors.
We support each other as we celebrate God's blessings in our
lives through worship, prayer, music, and service to others.