Morning Prayer for the 5th Sunday in Lent, March 29, 2020, in Quarantine

Watch Video Now

Opening Verses

Zion says, God has forsaken me; my God has forgotten me. But can a woman forget the infant at her breast, or a loving mother the child of her womb? *Isaiah 49:14-15.*

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is as strong as death, passion fierce as the grave…" *Song of Solomon, 8:6a*

The Invitatory and Psalter

1. O Lord, open thou our lips,
   R. And our mouth shall show forth your praise.
2. Glory be to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
3. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Jubilate Deo *Psalm 100:1-7* Hymnal 1940 #642

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness.
and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God,
it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; *
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise; *
be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting; *

and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever, Amen.

First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Hymn: "I'll praise my Maker while I've breath" *Hymnal 1982, #429*

Second Lesson: John 11:1-45

Sermon: "Dry Bones, Empty Graves, and 'If You Had Been Here...'"

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead, and on the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. *Amen*.

The Suffrages

1. Save your people, most loving God, and bless your inheritance;
   R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
   V. Day by day we bless you;
   R. We praise your name for ever.
   V. Keep us from all sin and sorrow;
   R. Have mercy upon us, have mercy.
   V. Show us your love and mercy;
   R. For we put our trust in you.
   V. In you we place our hope;
   R. That we shall never hope in vain.

The Collects

A Collect for the 5th Sunday in Lent

Loving God, you alone bring order to unruly wills, and peace in the midst of anxiety. Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer after St. Alphonsus

O Jesus, you are present to us in the blessed sacrament. We love you above all things, and desire to receive you into our souls. Since we cannot at this time share your sacrament, let your spirit dwell within our hearts. Let us welcome you as one already with us, making us one body and one spirit, never to be parted from you. *Amen*.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, father of all mercies,
we your servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen*.

Concluding Sentence

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21*

Blessing and Dismissal

Be at peace wherever the day may take you and among whom, in your goings and your comings, and in your returning home, and may the blessing of God Almighty: Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be upon you and remain with you, always.

About Episcopal Worship and this Service

Holy Eucharist, or Holy Communion, has become the principle worship service in The Episcopal Church. Along with Holy Baptism, it is at the heart of the church's sacramental life, and the chief means by which we worship as a community. In times of quarantine, however, for reasons of public health and safety, the community may not gather for this important memorial of our salvation. Such is the case right now.

At such times, we turn to another worship resource: the Daily Office. It consists of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline (late night), as well as Daily

Devotions for use by individuals and families. Each office, as they're called, offers worship of praise and thanksgiving by means of word and song.

Morning Prayer, or Matins, is how many Christians have begun their days for well over a thousand years. It opens with a call to worship, mindfulness, and song, then invites us to raise up psalms of praise and mercy. We then hear the lessons appointed for the day, followed by a canticles or hymns. A homily, which offers comment on the lessons of the day, or a sermon, a somewhat lengthier speech concerning morals, religion, scripture, and the situation facing the congregation and the world, often follows.

Then comes the Apostles' Creed, an ancient statement of our faith, followed by the prayers. These include *The Lord's Prayer*, which we say together; *Suffrages* (intercessory prayers), which we read by alternate versus; *Collects,* which are prayers particular to the day or occasion, and for when we cannot share the Eucharist; *Thanksgivings,* which we also say together; and a final *Blessing*.

The biblical readings, or lessons, for any day of the church are found in two slightly different versions. One is at the back of the Book of Common Prayer in the section marked "The Lectionary" and "Daily Office Lectionary." The other is an updated one which we use on Sundays, as do many other churches. It is called the "Revised Common Lectionary," or RCL. The link below leads to it. The RCL works on a three-year cycle, taking the church through much of the Bible. All of the New Testament, except for the more disturbing parts of the Book of Revelation, is read each year.

If you've not done so in a while, or ever, now's a good time to explore the prayers and devotions available to us in the resources listed below, particularly the *Book of Common Prayer* and *Enriching Our Worship*. They are meant to help each of us draw closer to God and to each other – especially when we can't otherwise do so in person.

Resources (available for free online)

Book of Common Prayer, www.bcponline.org

Enriching Our Worship 1, https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/enriching-our-worship-1/enrichingourworship1.pdf

Hymnal 1982: https://hymnary.org/hymnal/EH1982

Hymnal 1940: https://hymnary.org/hymnal/HPEC1940

These resources contain many of the prayers, hymns, and worship services used in The Episcopal Church and by Episcopalians in their daily devotions.

The Revised Common Lectionary and Daily Office,
https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/

This source shows the readings assigned for use in Sunday worship and for daily office use for each day of the year, with links to online Bibles.

The Episcopal Church: www.episcopalchurch.org

Episcopal News Service: www.episcopalnewsservice.org

The Episcopal Diocese of Washington: www.edow.org,
EDOW resources for use during the coronavirus pandemic: https://www.edow.org/news-events/coronavirus/online-prayer

St. Mark's, Fairland: www.stmarks-silverspring.org

A Prayer in Times of Sickness and Contagion

Holy God, giver of life and health, source of all wisdom and peace: Comfort and relieve your servants who suffer from sickness or fear, give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, and let your grace be with all those who work to protect us from contagion and disease. May we be strengthened against any weakness, sickness, fear, and doubt, and place our confidence in your loving care through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*.