

# The Diocese of Blackburn



## Prayer and worship at home

Sunday 29 March, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
(Passion Sunday)

*If a household are praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the words in bold type.*

*If alone, read all the words aloud.*

*You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.*

*You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to some music, or by being still*

### Preparation

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

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us.**

#### The Act of Penitence

*Today we read about Jesus's great sign, the raising of Lazarus, showing us his power over all enemies.*

*Life out of death is a gift at its most dramatic.*

*As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.*

**God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong that we have thought  
and said and done, and are mindful of all that we  
have failed to do.  
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us for all that is past,  
and help us to live each day  
in the light of Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### Words of forgiveness

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### The Special Prayer for this week

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING: 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.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL READING: John 11.

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.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 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 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 upwards 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is  
Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

*cf Philippians 2.6-11*

## Prayers of intercession

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words,  
or be prompted by the words here)*

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety and  
fear... for all those living and suffering with the  
coronavirus...*

*We pray for our nation and its well-being, for our Prime  
Minister and Government, and for our NHS...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for  
those who are cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those suffering financially; and for those  
struggling to find a new rhythm to life...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all  
whom we love but see no longer...*

## The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,  
we pray:

**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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## The Grace

*We conclude our prayers*

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen**



## Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 30	John 8.1-11
Tuesday	Psalm 35	John 8.21-30
Wednesday	Psalm 55	John 8.31-42
Thursday	Psalm 40	John 8.51-end
Friday	Psalm 22	John 10.31-end
Saturday	Psalm 42	John 11.45-end