

29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 -- LENT 5

THE PARISH CHURCHES OF  
STAINTON, HILTON AND BROOKFIELD

We are sharing these prayers and readings among members of our Church families to bring us together during this difficult period when we aren't able to hold our usual services.

**Thought for the day**

**Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He can transform death and despair, in any form, into life and hope.** *Susan Sayers*

**COLLECT - the prayer set for today**

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

**PSALM 130**

*With the Lord there is mercy and plenteous redemption.*

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 the night-watch for the morning, more than the night-watch 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.

*With the Lord there is mercy and plenteous redemption*

**The letter of Paul to the Romans :- ch 8.6–11**

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

7 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,

8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 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.

10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 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 Gospel according to John:-Ch 11.1–45**

1 There was a man named Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.'

4 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.'

5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.'

8 The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?'

9 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.'

10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.'

11 After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.'

12 The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.'

13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead.'

15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'

16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

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

18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,  
19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.  
20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.  
21 Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.  
22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'  
23 Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'  
24 Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'  
25 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,  
26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'  
27 She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'  
28 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.'  
29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.  
30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.  
31 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.  
32 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.'  
33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.  
34 He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.'  
35 Jesus began to weep.  
36 So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'  
37 But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'  
38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.  
39 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.'  
40 Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'  
41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me.  
42 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.'  
43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'  
44 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.'  
45 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*

#### PRAYERS

Lord God, the giver of eternal life , we pray at this time for the elderly of our community, and we thank you for those who having given a lifetime of service face the future with faith and hope, let them know your peace  
We pray for all who find their lives and beliefs challenged by the present day: often fearful, doubting and despairing. Let them know your love and comfort. .  
We remember the housebound, the lonely, those who are finding this time of isolation hard to bear. Let them feel your presence. Fill with love and strength those who serve and care. Let them know your blessing .  
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour Amen.  
Based on a prayer from *USPG*

#### *We thank God:-*

*For the dedication of those who risk their lives for our safety at this difficult time:- .Doctors, Nurses, Carers and all Emergency Services*  
*We pray for* *our politicians and all in local government that they may be granted wisdom and compassion*

*We pray for* *our loved ones especially for those from whom we will be separated for a time*

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer Amen*

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