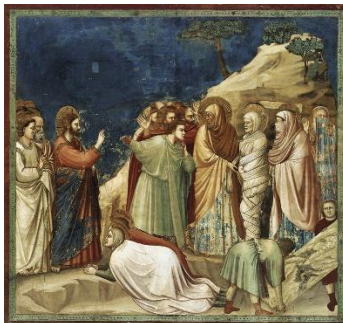


## A Service of Morning Prayer

March 22, 2026 Lent 5



'Raising of Lazarus,' painted by Giotto about 1304 – 1306  
currently in Scrovegni (Arena) Chapel, Padua, Italy

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. John 11:25, 26

### CP 11 Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.

2 With promised mercy will God still  
the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham,  
from foes to save us all;  
that we might worship without fear  
and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness  
before God all our days.

3 My child, as prophet of the Lord  
you will prepare the way,  
to tell God's people they are saved  
from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death  
and lead us into peace.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

May his grace and peace be with you.

**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,

**To you all hearts are open,**

**All desires known,**

**And from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

**By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

**That we may perfectly love you,**

**And worthily magnify your holy name;**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 130*Refrain: You have rescued my soul from death.*

130:1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

130:2 Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

130:3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

130:4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

130:5 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

130:6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

130:7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

130:8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

A Reading from Ezekiel 37:1-14

37:1 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.

37:2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

37:3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

37:6 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."

37:7 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.

37:8 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.

37:9 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."

37:10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

37:11 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.'

37:12 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.

37:13 And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

37:14 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 410 Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

1 Creating God, your fingers trace  
the bold designs of farthest space;  
let sun and moon and stars and light  
and what lies hidden praise your might.

3 Redeeming God, your arms embrace  
all now despised for creed or race;  
let peace, descending like a dove,  
make known on earth your healing love.

2 Sustaining God, your hands uphold  
earth's mysteries known or yet untold;  
let water's fragile blend with air,  
enabling life, proclaim your care.

4 Indwelling God, your gospel claims  
one family with a billion names;  
let every life be touched by grace  
until we praise you face to face.

A Reading from Romans 8:6-11

8:6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

8:7 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,

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

8:9 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.

8:10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 649 Breathe On Me, Breath of God

1 Breathe on me, breath of God;  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

3 Breathe on me, breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

2 Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine  
to do and to endure.

4 Breathe on me, breath of God:  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

John 11:1-45

11:1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

11:2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

11:3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

11:4 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."

11:5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

11:6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

11:7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

11:8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

11:9 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.

11:10 But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them."

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

11:12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

11:13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

11:14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

11:15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

11:16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

11:17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

11:18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,

11:19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

11:20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

11:21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

11:22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

11:26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

11:28 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."

11:29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

11:30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

11:31 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.

11:32 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."

11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

11:34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

11:35 Jesus began to weep.

11:36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

11:37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

11:38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

11:39 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."

11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

11:41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.

11:42 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."

11:43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

11:44 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."

11:45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 120824 Be Still

1 Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here

2 Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire  
With splendor He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around

3 Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place  
He comes to cleanse and heal  
To minister His grace  
No work too hard for Him  
In faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' 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.  
 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.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

Father God, hear us now as we bring before you, in our prayers of intercession, our hopes and dreams in the days leading up to Easter with the promise of lives reborn. As we pray for better human relationships, for lives restored to wholeness and for peace on earth we seek no more than your grace allows as we say, Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer

**Hear our prayer**

Lord we pray for your Church around the world and here in Canada as it journeys through Lent and prepares for the great Easter celebrations,

- for the Anglican Church of Korea
- for the Diocese of Niagara: the Rt. Rev. Susan Bell, Bishop.
- for St. Matthias, Edmonton: Andreas Sigrist, Rector; Tracey Ross, Office Manager.
- for the Buyé Diocese Youth Coordinator: Deo Nkunzimana.
- for the people and community of the Whitefish Lake First Nation.
- We pray for our own church here at St. Peter's; for new ways of being a Church and for all who give of time and talents in so many ways. We pray for our in-person services, our on line services, for our ministry team: Arthur, Sandra, Alison, Emily, Jorge, and Nadine, our readers and intercessors, that through their leadership our church may be guided with inspiration that can only come through your Spirit. That its message will reach beyond the flowers and Easter eggs to carry the hopes of all Christians; for a

rebirth of the spirit and for a strong witness for Christ which touches the hearts of those beyond its bounds. Lord, in your mercy,

### **Hear our prayer**

Regrettably we still live in a world riven with divisions, conflict and wars. The words of the Prince of Peace have not been heeded and so we ask for dialogue and reconciliation in those areas of the world in turmoil. Especially we pray for the conflicts in Ukraine, and Iran and Israel, the ongoing instability in United States.

We remember the consequences of conflict in the plight of the displaced families and those who flee conflict and become refugees. We pray for all aid agencies and especially the work of the United Nations. Lord, in your mercy,

### **Hear our prayer**

We are blest with a world of great beauty, of great extremes of climate and geography and of life in vast diversity. We pray for those scientists tasked with assessing our impact on the world's climate and the consequences that any change will bring. We remember all those caught up in the natural disasters that affect so many parts of the world and the distress they cause. Lord, in your mercy,

### **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our own country and its peoples. We pray for our elected leaders; that the great issues of the day will be debated honestly and openly and that decisions reached will be based on the best information available and applied with fairness at all levels across our diverse society. We pray for all families in whatever shape or form - that children will be loved and nurtured and encouraged to lead active and fulfilling roles in society. We pray for all agencies, both paid and voluntary, that support families through difficult times. Lord, in your mercy,

### **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those in most need in our own families and neighbourhood, thinking of the housebound and those in hospital or hospice. We pray for all carers and visitors whether family members, volunteers or health care professionals - and so we ask that you bestow on them your gifts of patience, compassion and understanding.

We pray for those that we know who are sick, lonely, anxious or in some other special need at this time as we share a brief moment together as we name them .

Sandra..... Merle..... Mary..... Irene ..... Tony and Mary Jean..... Florence..... Lisa and Joe..... Marijke..... Diane..... Janelle..... Sandy..... Evelyn..... Sarah..... Terry..... Ken..... Monica..... Julie..... Lucas..... Helen..... Cody..... Judy..... Ruth..... Jody and Michael..... David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Melody and her family..... Pauline.....Jorges and Janine..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... Irvin and Margaret..... Ashley..... Emily..... Zaldy..... those we hold close in our hearts and those known to you alone.

As we have named them in our hearts so let them feel your presence and friendship in their lives as we commit them to your loving care. Lord, in your mercy,

### **Hear our prayer**

We also remember those whose journey through life has ended and we pray for those left behind to grieve.

Let them know that nothing is more dependable in times of sorrow than your steadfast and encircling love. For even in times of darkness and despair we can be assured that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died. Today we pray for the repose of the soul of Helen Gagalowich. For you turn our darkness into light; in your light shall we see light. Lord, in your mercy,

### **Hear our prayer**

And finally a prayer for ourselves: Here Lord we stand at the beginning of a new week. As you journeyed on, trusting in your Father's love, so let us also go on in faith and hope, into the days ahead with all its joys and sorrows.

Guided on our way with your Spirit's presence within us. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Collect

Almighty God,  
 through the waters of baptism  
 your Son has made us children of light.  
 May we ever walk in his light  
 and show forth your glory in the world;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,**

**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.**

CP 466 How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
when once we heed your call:  
to live according to your word,  
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all,  
and will not let us fall.

2 But if, forgetful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind,  
and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care,  
our inward life repair.

3 We mark your saints, how they became  
in hindrances more sure,  
whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure  
your power to cleanse and cure.

4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
together or alone,  
in old routines or ventures new,  
may we not cease to look to you.  
The cross you hung upon,  
all you endeavored done.

The Dismissal

**I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. John 11:25, 26**

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,  
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**