

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



President:

Rev'd Jonathan Chamberlain

Vicar

Deacon and Preacher:

Rev'd Chester Lord

Assistant Priest

Organist:

Andrew Kerr

**26 March 2023**  
**Sung Holy Eucharist**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

Now is the healing time decreed  
for sins of heart and word and deed,  
when we in humble fear record  
the wrong that we have done the Lord.

(Latin, before 12th century)

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. *Gloria in excelsis* is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Sixth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known.

*Please switch off all mobile phones.*

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### **OPENING HYMN**

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.
  
2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.
  
3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love!
  
4. Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

5. Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.

*The presiding priest greets all in the name of the Lord.*

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The deacon says the sentence of the day.*

‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord; ‘whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. (Jn 11.25-26)

*The deacon introduces the prayer of preparation.*

Let us pray:

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom 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.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*The deacon introduces the Two Great Commandments:*

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your

neighbour as yourself.’

*The deacon introduces the prayer of confession.*

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

*Silence is kept.*

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The presiding priest pronounces the absolution.*

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The kyrie is sung:*

**Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The presiding priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words*

Let us pray together the Collect of the Day.

*Silence is kept.*

**Life-giving God,  
your Son came into the world  
to free us from sin and death:  
breathe on us with the power of your Spirit,  
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,  
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Please sit.*

### FIRST READING

#### **The Valley of Dry Bones**

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

Ezek. 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 round 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, 'Prophecy 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, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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 prophecy, 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.’

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 130**

1. Out of the depths have I called to you O Lord:  
    Lord hear my voice.
2. O let your ears consider well:  
    the voice of my supplication.
3. If you Lord should note what we do wrong:  
    who then O Lord could stand?
4. But there is forgiveness with you:  
    so that you shall be feared.
5. I wait for the Lord my soul waits for him:  
    and in his word is my hope.
6. My soul looks for the Lord:  
    more than watchmen for the morning,  
    more I say than watchmen for the morning.
7. O Israel trust in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy:  
    and with him is ample                      redemption.

8. He will redeem Israel:  
from the multitude of their sins.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

*Rom 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.

**For the word of the Lord,**  
thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL HYMN

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one,  
lay down your head upon my breast.”  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live.”  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,



and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world's light.  
Look unto me; your morn shall rise  
and all your day be bright.”  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till trav'ling days are done.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & READING**

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John. *Jn 11:1-45*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **The Death of Lazarus**

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.’

### **Jesus the Resurrection and the Life**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for 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.’

### **Jesus Weeps**

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?’

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life**

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 for 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.’

### **The Plot to Kill Jesus**

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

For the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon Rev'd Chester Lord*

### **THE CREED**

*The deacon introduces the Nicene Creed.*

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

*Please stand.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Please kneel or sit.*

*The deacon introduces the prayers of the people.*

Let us pray for the church and for the world.

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church ...  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For the mission of the Church,  
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel  
to the ends of the earth,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For those preparing for baptism and confirmation ...  
and for their teachers and sponsors,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For peace in the world ...  
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow  
among nations and peoples,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ...  
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;  
that they may be relieved and protected,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

In communion with all those  
who have walked in the way of holiness ...  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

For..

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

God our Father,  
in your love and goodness  
you have taught us to come close to you in penitence  
with prayer, fasting and generosity;  
accept our Lenten discipline,  
and when we fall by our weakness,  
raise us up by your unfailing mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

*Please stand.*

*The priest says*

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

(Romans 5.1, 2)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## **THE OFFERTORY HYMN**

1. By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered  
and confidently waiting, come what may,  
we know that God is with us night and morning,  
and never fails to meet us each new day.
2. Yet are our hearts by their old foe tormented;

still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;  
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation  
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

3. And when the cup you give is filled to brimming  
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,  
we take it gladly, trusting though with trembling,  
out of so good and so beloved a hand.
4. If once again, in this mixed world, you give us  
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,  
we shall recall what we have learned through sorrow,  
and dedicate our lives to you alone.

*The priest prays*

God of wisdom,  
may the light of your eternal Word,  
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
lead us in holiness and guide us to glory;  
we ask this in his name.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary

and lived as one of us.  
He was tempted in every way as we are,  
yet he did not sin.  
By his death on the cross  
and rising to new life,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.  
By his grace we are able  
to triumph over every evil,  
and to walk in the way of his love.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**  
... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

... in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The priest says*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,**



**on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*The priest breaks the bread.*

We who are many are one body,  
**All: for we all share in the one bread.**

*The Agnus Dei is sung.*

The holy gifts of God for the holy people of God.  
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ  
in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by  
faith with thanksgiving.

*Holy communion will be served at the altar rail. Please kneel or stand.*

*All who are baptised, of all Christian denominations, are welcome to  
receive Holy Communion here at Saint Peter's. This includes children  
from the age of 6 at the discretion of their parents. Gluten-free wafers  
are available upon request. If you would prefer to receive a blessing,  
please indicate this to the priest, by the crossing of the arms on the  
chest.*

## **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Silence is kept.*

*The post communion prayer.*

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son to be for us  
both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of godly life:  
give us grace  
that we may always most thankfully receive  
these his inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour  
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Announcements.**

### **DISMISSAL HYMN**

1. Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favored sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending,  
Swell the sound of this refrain:  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
God appears on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold Him  
Robed in awesome majesty;  
Those who have betrayed and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply shamed before him, deeply shamed before him,  
deeply shamed before him.  
Shall the true Messiah see.

3. The dear tokens of His passion  
Still His dazzling body bears;  
Cause of endless exultation  
To His ransomed worshippers;  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, Amen! let all adore you,

High on your eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory,  
Claim the kingdom for your own;  
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!  
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.

*The presiding priest pronounces the Blessing.*

May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.

**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal you by his wounds.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*The deacon says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**