

Lenten Midday Prayer – March 23, 2022
I AM the Resurrection and the Life

Preparation (Assistant)

L: We cast our burdens upon you, O Lord,

C: and you will sustain us.

L: Create in us clean hearts, O God,

C: and renew a right spirit within us.

L: Cast us not away from your presence

C: and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

L: Give us the joy of your saving help again

C: and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

L: Blessed are you, O Lord, day by day,

C: the God of our salvation who bears our burdens.

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

C: Amen.

First Reading (Lector)

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

John 11:1-44

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.' 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.'

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?' 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.'

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

Prayers (Assistant)

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Pour out your Spirit upon your church so that your people speak words of life to dry bones. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring newness of life to all of creation: to animals, plants, lands, and sea, that they be refreshed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Unbind all nations, peoples, and tribes from violence and war. Breathe the breath of new life and reconciliation where there is conflict. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Stir up your healing power to redeem from illness all those who wait upon you, that they know your steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire this congregation to honor and lift up the gifts of all artists, musicians, needle workers, painters, potters, and sculptors, that your glory be revealed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all the saints who have been lifted up to live with you in light eternal. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer (Assistant)

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us,

**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 forever. Amen.**

Closing Prayer (Rob)

L: Let us pray. God of power and love look kindly on the tasks we have begun,
and at this midday hour renew your grace within us: make good our defects,
and bring our work to that fulfilment which accords with your will.

Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace (Rob)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Please share a wave of peace with each other.

Benediction (Rob)

L: May the Lord keep us in the light and truth and love of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.