

**St George's Barcelona Virtual Church**  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Preparation – The Lord welcomes us**

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

I as Chaplain welcome you to the third St George's Barcelona and Andorra Virtual Church Service. We are reaching the end of the Lenten Journey, it is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. This is also the fifth Sunday in March. As we often do things a little bit different on the fifth Sunday, we had planned for this Sunday to be a Songs of Praise style service, based on the BBC Sunday Service. We cannot do that, but we are going to use as the hymns today the favourites already chosen and collated by Jenny Shaw who coordinates our music. So worship the Lord and enjoy!

Two good suggestions were made to me. One is that it would be good to have songs for the children, so after the blessing at the end of this service Jennie Hebson our youth worker will have a number of songs from YouTube that the members of Sunday School and their families can sing to. The other idea was to have a pause after announcing the hymn so that if you wish you can look it up, pause this video and listen.

🎵 **SONG OF WELCOME** 🎵 **Guide me o thou great Jehovah** - a great hymn of protection  
(Why not join us in singing along to YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT4n1hGjDDg>  
Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou are mighty; Hold me with thy powerful hand.

We come together in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

🎵 **SONG FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL** 🎵 **Seek ye first the kingdom of God** – a song of promise  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yt8-Da6fj24>  
Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you

**SAYING SORRY**

✘ The Gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.	We long for the fire of God's cleansing to touch our unclean lips, for our guilt to be removed and our sin wiped out. So we meet Father, Son and Holy Spirit with repentance in our hearts.
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*a time of silence is kept and then:*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**ABSOLUTION** *is pronounced and all respond:*

✘ May the Father forgive you by the death of his Son and strengthen you to live in the power of the Spirit all *your* days. **Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

*A period of silent prayer is introduced with the words "Let us pray". The collect is said, and all respond:*

✠ 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.

## *The Word – The Lord teaches us*

### READINGS

✠ **THE PSALM FOR THE DAY** is **PSALM 130**:

*if you are following this service why not read this antiphonally as we do in church? That means taking turns ... young and old, or male and female, or one and the rest?*

**A song of ascents.**

<sup>1</sup> **Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;**

<sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

<sup>3</sup> If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

<sup>5</sup> **I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.**

<sup>6</sup> I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> Israel, put your hope in the LORD, **for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

<sup>8</sup> He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen*

✠ **The Old Testament Reading** Ezekiel 37:1-14      **The valley of dry bones**

**37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD** and set me in the middle of a valley; **it was full of bones.** <sup>2</sup> He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, **bones that were very dry.** <sup>3</sup> He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'Sovereign LORD, you alone know.' <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, **hear the word of the LORD!** <sup>5</sup> **This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones:** I will make breath<sup>[a]</sup> enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. **Then you will know that I am the LORD.**"' <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. **And as I was prophesying,** there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup> **I looked,** and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> **Then he said to me,** 'Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, "**This is what the Sovereign LORD says:** come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" <sup>10</sup> **So I prophesied as he commanded me,** and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army. <sup>11</sup> **Then he said to me:** 'Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. **They say,** "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off."<sup>12</sup> **Therefore prophesy and say to them:** "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup> **I will put my Spirit in you and you will live,** and I will settle you in your own land. **Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.**"

*This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God*

🎵 **SONG** 🎵 to prepare for the story of our Lord **Lord of the Dance** - this is the Lord we will be reading about in our Gospel reading <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xkk0YodJqH8>

✠ **THE GOSPEL John 11:1-45 The Death of Lazarus**

Hear the Gospel of the Lord according to St John, *Glory to you O Lord*

**11 Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.**  
<sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) **3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus,** ‘Lord, the one you love is ill.’ **4 When he heard this, Jesus said,** ‘This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.’ **5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples,** ‘Let us go back to Judea.’ <sup>8</sup> ‘But Rabbi,’ **they said,** ‘a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?’ <sup>9</sup> **Jesus answered,** ‘Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.’ <sup>11</sup> **After he had said this, he went on to tell them,** ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.’ <sup>12</sup> **His disciples replied,** ‘Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.’ <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. <sup>14</sup> **So then he told them plainly,** ‘Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ <sup>16</sup> **Then Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>) said to the rest of the disciples,** ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’

#### **Jesus comforts the sisters of Lazarus**

<sup>17</sup> **On his arrival,** Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> ‘Lord,’ **Martha said to Jesus,** ‘if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.’ <sup>23</sup> **Jesus said to her,** ‘Your brother will rise again.’ <sup>24</sup> **Martha answered,** ‘I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’ <sup>25</sup> **Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.** Do you believe this?’ <sup>27</sup> ‘Yes, Lord,’ **she replied,** ‘I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’ <sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. ‘The Teacher is here,’ **she said,** ‘and is asking for you.’ <sup>29</sup> **When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.** <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, **noticed how quickly she got up and went out,** they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet **and said,** ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ <sup>33</sup> **When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.** <sup>34</sup> ‘Where have you laid him?’ **he asked.** ‘Come and see, Lord,’ **they replied.** <sup>35</sup> **Jesus wept.** <sup>36</sup> Then **the Jews said,** ‘See how he loved him!’ <sup>37</sup> **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 from the dead

<sup>38</sup> **Jesus, once more deeply moved**, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> 'Take away the stone,' **he said**. 'But, Lord,' **said Martha**, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.' <sup>40</sup> **Then Jesus said**, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?' <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. **Then Jesus looked up and said**, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me.' <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.' <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, **Jesus called in a loud voice**, 'Lazarus, come out!' <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, '**Take off the grave clothes and let him go.**' <sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

## SERMON PASSIONTIDE BEGINS

### INTRODUCTION

This is the last Sunday of Lent and we are moving up to Jerusalem ... next week is Palm Sunday and then we are into Holy Week. It is unlikely that St George's will be beautified with flowers this year. I did not manage to the candle shop to get our Easter Candle before the lockdown – or the cloistering, as I prefer to call it. We will though have a Holy Week Journey and it is already in the process of preparation.

Each of our readings begins with difficulties. The Psalmist is in the depths, the bones are dry and Lazarus is dead. But the readings are all about life and the hope of life. It is a message of hope in the midst of darkness. Is there anything more vital as we live in these strange times. We and our governments may be caught by surprise, God never is. So as we prepare for Holy Week let us in our imagination enter into the story of this journey. Take time to read it in at least one of the Gospels.

✠ **PSALM FOR THE DAY 130** Psalm 130 is a great Psalm to accompany us on our journey.

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; <sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

<sup>3</sup> If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> **But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.** <sup>5</sup> **I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.** <sup>6</sup> **I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.** <sup>7</sup> Israel, **put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.** <sup>8</sup> He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

✠ There are three great words in this Psalm – **forgiveness, waiting, hoping** – but what transforms this from being an empty optimism is the words in verse 7: **for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.** I love the two adjectives: **unfailing** and **full** – we have a God with whom there is no possibility of failure and no half measures. So in these days of physical constraint our minds and hearts can soar into the heavens as we meditate on a God who loves to lavish his grace upon us.

I have a prayer I say every morning which is an adaptation of a prayer of St Benedict:

*Our loving Father, give us the diligence to seek you, a heart to meditate upon you and by your grace may our way of life be pleasing to you.*

✘ Our Old Testament reading from **Ezekiel 37.1-14** gives to us a famous picture of dead bones made famous in the Negro Spiritual:

E-ze-kiel cried, "Dem dry bones!" E-ze-kiel cried, "Dem dry bones!"  
E-ze-kiel cried, "Dem dry bones!" Oh hear the word of the Lord.

The foot bone con-nected to the (pause) leg-bone, The leg bone connected to the (') knee bone,  
The knee bone connected to the (') thigh bone, The thigh bone connected to the (') back bone,  
The back bone connected to the (') neck bone The neck bone connected to the (') head bone  
Oh hear the word of the Lord!

Dem bones, dem bones gon-na walk a-roun' Dem bones, dem bones gon-na walk a-roun'  
Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk aroun' Oh hear the word of the Lord

### How do I sum up this passage?

**1. God gives a vision:** 37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

**2. It is a picture of where his people are** 2 He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. **3 He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?'** I said, 'Sovereign LORD, you alone know.'

**3. The way it is now, is not the way it has to be in the future** 4 Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! 5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath<sup>[a]</sup> enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

**4. When God speaks, things can change** 7 **So I prophesied as I was commanded.** And as I was prophesying, **there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.** 8 **I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.**

**5. The word for Breath is Ru'ah, also translated spirit ..the Holy Spirit is the Ru'ah of God:** 9 **Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'"** 10 **So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army.** 11 Then he said to me: 'Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off." 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: my people, **I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them;** I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.

**6. HOPE is there when the Spirit comes to transform** 14 **I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"**

**7. God is bigger than what we are going through just now and we are to remember his words of hope.**

### ✘ GOSPEL John 11.1-45

✦ We see this in our Gospel reading; to a desperate situation ... Jesus brings resurrection, from despair he gives joy

**1. Being a devoted follower of Jesus did not hide Mary from trouble:** 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,\*

**2. Jesus enjoyed people, they were not simply opportunities for ministry. He loved this dear family ... his friend.** '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.'*

**3. Jesus' response was measured. There is no panic with him.** 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. He says to his disciples: 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.'*

**4. Jesus' self declaration and demand for a response:** <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.\* Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' <sup>27</sup>She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,\* the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' Let us make a fresh response to him today.

**5. Jesus Wept ...he was not afraid to show his emotions:** <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' For what? We are not told. But the people interpreted it as love. Integrity is important ... it is no sin to say we are finding this time difficult or even depressing. Christ deals with reality, not face-saving. It is not unspiritual to cry out to God in anguish.

**6. Then Jesus does his miracle ... and the glory of God was seen!** <sup>39</sup>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.' <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. ... <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'

**7. Jesus brings freedom ... we can experience this freedom even in the midst of non-freedom:** <sup>44</sup>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.' <sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

**Finale ... the same Finale as I gave on the Fifth Sunday of Lent in 2017**

**THERE IS A VITALITY ABOUT JESUS – he is the Life-Giver  
and in his him we can live a life full of vitality.**

**There is vitality in:**

- ✘ The Wonder of the Trinity,
- ✘ The dance of love into which we are invited
- ✘ When we feel loved we feel wonderful - we never get bored of feeling wonderful
- ✘ The word in the OT is *Chesed*, no one word in English - Loving kindness, Faithful Love grace ... This is love that gives confidence ...
- ✘ The NT word is *Charis* from which we get charismatic, gifts of grace and the word charm comes from this root. To be charming is to enable the other person to feel graced.

**Listen to some verses from Ecclesiastes:**

**Come, eat your bread with joy! Drink your wine with peace in your heart. Your fast has been pleasing to the Lord! **Ecc 9:7****

**Or as The Message puts it:**

**Ecclesiastes 9:7ff** *Seize life! Eat bread with gusto, Drink wine with a robust heart. Oh yes—God takes pleasure in your pleasure! Dress festively every morning. Don't skimp on colors and scarves*

**9 Relish life with the spouse you love Each and every day of your precarious life. Each day is God's gift. It's all you get in exchange For the hard work of staying alive. Make the most of each one! **Ecc 9:9****

**Conclusion**

I remember walking down the Mount of Olives and there was a building with this sign:

*The Convent is closed for greater Lent.* As we come to the end of this Lent, let us embrace the Covenant God has brought us into. Our following Jesus, our obedience of God, our response to the Spirit, all comes from God having taken the initiative, having taken the first steps – and that takes us into Passiontide ... which begins today. We walk with Jesus. We are on the threshold of truly the greatest life-transforming event of history. Let us begin the adventure of accompanying Jesus on the journey of his last two weeks before his crucifixion.

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

An extra hymn in response to the Scriptures and sermon: **Great is thy faithfulness**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gclh0m--Mbw> You will have to remove the advert at the beginning.  
"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!" Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided— "Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!

*In response to God's Word we join together in the **THE APOSTLES' CREED** –*

*This is what we believe.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

### **A TIME OF PRAYER**

***O Lord, hear my prayer***  *may be sung*

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer** or Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Take time to pray for:**

- The world,
- Our neighbourhoods,
- The wider church
- St George's Andorra and Barcelona

**Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.**

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father for people everywhere according to their needs.

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

We pray for this local community and for all people in their interrupted daily life and work.

We pray for the young and the elderly, for families, and all who are alone.

We give thanks for human skill and creativity and all that reveals your loveliness.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Look in your mercy upon the world you love so much

We pray for those who are in need; for the sick, sorrowful and bereaved, for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear,

We pray for all who bring comfort, care and healing.  
We give thanks for human love and friendship  
and for all that enriches our daily lives.  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

**A Coronavirus Prayer from the Church of England Website**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. *(Short Silence)* **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we commend into your hands those who have departed this life. You gave them breath and loved them through their journey of life. Receive them now at the end of that journey into your eternal presence and may they rest in everlasting peace. *(Short Silence)* **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Everlasting God, in so many ways you have taught us that you alone can be trusted, even when it might seem that you are far away from us. Help us to remember this fact and feel your loving presence as we go from this time of worship and return to our everyday lives walking obediently in the light of your truth in all that we do this and every day.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

**President** Almighty and everlasting God,  
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:  
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,  
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All Amen.

**Another Prayer: A Coronavirus Prayer from the USA**

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

***Holy Communion – The Lord feeds us***

**THE PEACE**

✠ We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

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*

## OFFERTORY HYMN AS WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD AS WE COME TO HIS TABLE

- Normally the gifts of the people are gathered at this time. During this seclusion our giving can be via the Website or by Standing Order and information on this is also on the website. St George's needs your ongoing support as our costs continue even when we cannot have services here).

🎵 **HYMN** 🎵 **And can it be** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-t66l03XmQI>

And can it be that I should gain	An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—	For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,	That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

✠ Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry, who raises the poor, who fills our praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER – # F (there are 8 in total in Common Worship, our Prayer Book)

The Lord is here	<b>His presence is with us</b>
Lift up your hearts.	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	<b>It is right to give thanks and praise.</b>

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth,  
for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word,  
and all things have come into being.

And now we give you thanks because each year you give us this joyful season  
when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.  
You give us a spirit of loving reverence for you and of willing service to our neighbour.  
As we recall the saving acts that give new life in Christ,  
you bring the image of your Son to perfection within our hearts.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,  
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,  
evermore 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.]**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own,  
he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: **Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.**

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

**Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father,  
**by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;**  
form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.  
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints  
at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

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

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

#### **THE COMMUNION**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

#### **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him  
in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,  
blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

We share together in the communion wherever we are: the body of Christ given for you

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

*Together we say:*

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

### ***The Dismissal – The Lord sends us out***

## BLESSING

✠ May God give to you and to all those you love his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among *you* and remain with *you* always **Amen**

🎵 **HYMN** 🎵 Our final hymn sends us out to serve Christ with a note of triumph and victory: It is: **How great thou art** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GKhDCsLrUg> : Again, please remove the advert when you can.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



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