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The Greeting

Though we are apart we are drawn together by the Holy Spirit and held together in the love of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening hymn

MORNING HAS BROKEN, Like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken, Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing, Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall, On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness, Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness, Where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning!
Born of the one light, Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's re-creation, Of the new day!

Eleanor Farjeon

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**Wash us thoroughly from our wickedness
and cleanse us from our sin
Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Cast us not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lent Collect

**Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins
of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.**

**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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading

6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Romans 8:6-11 (NIV)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Second Hymn

"GREAT IS THY faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"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!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all Nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O Chisholm

The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany,
the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary,
whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, 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 sick."

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness 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 sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." 8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. 10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

11 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." 12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. 14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 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?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

28 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." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 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.

32 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."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then 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 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "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."

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 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."

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

John 11:1-45 (NIV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The natural focus of today's Gospel reading is Lazarus, his death, and Jesus's ability to bring him back to life. However, our focus should always be on Jesus, on what he is doing and saying, and on trying to sense his nature which is the nature of our God.

Throughout this story Jesus's focus is on people. His nature is to care for people. Not just for the "big things" but for whatever is important to the individual person. Jesus weeps not for Lazarus but for Mary, he sees her crying and feels her pain deep within his spirit.

Our God sees all the worries of the world and cares for the whole of his creation. It is right that we continue to pray for the problems of the world, but we should never forget that our Father in heaven is passionately interested in every detail of our lives.

You are his dearly loved child and he is deeply interested in anything that is concerning you, big or small.

The Nicene Creed

**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 from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Father God

We thank you that we are your children, that you love each one of us dearly, and care for every detail of our lives. Help us to always be ready to come to you with our concerns.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for all those working in our NHS, we ask you to protect and sustain them throughout these difficult times.

We pray for our leaders, that you will help and guide them, and heal those who are sick.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for countries around the world as they struggle with this pandemic. Remembering particularly Italy, Spain, and the USA, but also those poorer nations where health care systems are less well resourced.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for all those working to help people through these problems in our parish, for the Cross Roads Center, our schools, our doctors, and our council.

And we pray for all those who are struggling in any way, with isolation, with illness, and with grief.

Merciful Father;

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you:
and also with you.

Third hymn

LOVE DIVINE, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find Thy promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy grace receive!
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more Thy temples leave;
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless may we be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place;
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things: who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit
of discipline, that we might triumph over evil and grow in
grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with
mind and heart renewed.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the
company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious
name, for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, (Hosanna, Hosanna)
in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, (Hosanna, Hosanna)
in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to
your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored
our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his
perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank
you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in
your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so
that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

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.**

Sharing of Communion

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.**

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under
your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we,
with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

**Lamb of God
you take away
the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God
you take away
the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God
you take away
the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

**(or) Jesus,
Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus,
Bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us.
Jesus,
Redeemer of the
World:
Grant us peace.**

Post Communion Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have taught us that what we do for the least of our
brothers and sisters we also do 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 forever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

**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.**

Final hymn

THERE IS A REDEEMER,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God,
Messiah, Holy One.

Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit—
Till the work on earth is done.

Jesus my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory
I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place.

Melody Green

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and all those whom you love, today and every day.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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