

Fifth Sunday of Lent Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home And Resources

Introduction:

We've put together this resource as a launching pad for the far-flung Lourdes community to celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent the weekend of March 28 & 29, 2020. We can be in prayerful solidarity with each other across our 100-ZIP Codes in the Greater Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

This week we're dialing it up a couple notches. Since it's our traditional Youth minister Sunday, we have two family teams – Trimika & Isaiah Fernandez and the Ujda Family (John, Mary, Moira & Brennan) – proclaiming the readings on video and a young adult – the composer, pianist and our Scripture study co-leader – Julian Reid videoing a witness. We also have embedded in our Lourdes Notes distribution and on our website some “buttons” which can launch the playing of a few key songs to enhance your experience. Just like last week, some “official” prayers are provided as launch pads for you own. Plus, there's a start on Prayers of the Faithful for you to add your particular concerns.

Thanks to our proclaimers, and to Peralte Paul who packaged their videos together for us deftly. Thanks also to Kenneth W. Louis, our Director of Liturgy and Music, for his leadership in crafting this service. We hope you can use this basket of resources to do a Word Service in your “home church.”

Our worshipping in our many “home churches” puts us in touch to the very early church. The Acts of the Apostles abounds with home churches: the house church of Mary, mother of John, where Peter worshipped (Acts 12:12); the

house church of Lydia, the purple cloth merchant, in Phillipi, who had Paul preach and Baptize her whole household (Acts 16:40); the house church of Prisca and her husband Aquila in Ephesus visited by Paul (Acts 18:1-2 and 1 Corinthians 16:19); the house church of Nympha (Colossians 4:15); and the house church of Philemon and Apphia (Philemon verses 1-2), to mention a few. The fleeting references we have reflect a generous spirit. The selfless giving of these house church providers gave Christianity the opportunity to take root and grow. Maybe that's what will happen when we return at long last to our beloved Lourdes. We'll come back stronger in the faith, yet yearning for community.

– Blessings! Fr. Jeffery & Fr. Bruce

Sunday Lourdes Liturgy at Home – March 28 & 29, 2020

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

May the grace and peace from Christ, the source of our strength and the unity of our families, be with us all.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you responded to Mary's plea for Lazarus: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you raised Lazarus from the dead: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you call us to believe in everlasting life: Lord, have mercy.

OPENING PRAYER:

Come to our aid, loving God,
that we may walk courageously in that love of which your Son
gave proof when he handed himself over to death out of love for the world.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.
Let the Church say.....AMEN!

PRELUDE

Our current situation with the corona-virus pandemic and this Lenten season both invite us to explore the meaning of life — our lives here and now and life after death. In a world where many have so little while a few have so much, we are called to embrace life as well as to ensure that precious resources are available for the most vulnerable. Mindful of the fragile balance in our earthly life, we place our faith in Christ's resurrection and the promise of life everlasting upon death.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reading 1

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel [EZ 37:12-14]

Thus says the Lord GOD:^[L]_[SEP]

O my people, I will open your graves^[L]_[SEP]

and have you rise from them,^[L]_[SEP]

and bring you back to the land of Israel.^[L]_[SEP]

Then you shall know that I am the LORD,^[L]_[SEP]

when I open your graves

and have you rise from them,^[L]_[SEP] O my people!^[L]_[SEP]

I will put my spirit in you that you may live,^[L]_[SEP]

and I will settle you upon your land;^[L]_[SEP]

thus you shall know that I am the LORD.^[L]_[SEP]

I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.....

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 130

PS 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8.

R. Our response is: **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.** [With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.]

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication.

R. **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,

LORD, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness
that you may be revered.

R. **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

I trust in the LORD;

my soul trusts in his word.

More than sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the LORD.

R. **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

For with the LORD is kindness

and with him is plenteous redemption;

And he will redeem Israel

from all their iniquities.

R. **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

Reading 2

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans [ROM 8:8-11]

Brothers and sisters: [L][SEP]

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. [L][SEP]

But you are not in the flesh; [L][SEP]

on the contrary, you are in the spirit, [L][SEP]

if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. [L][SEP]

Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ

does not belong to him. [L][SEP]

But if Christ is in you,

although the body is dead because of sin, [L][SEP]

the spirit is alive because of righteousness. [L][SEP]

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead

dwells in you, [L][SEP] the one who raised Christ from the dead [L][SEP]

will give life to your mortal bodies also, [L][SEP]

through his Spirit dwelling in you.

The Word of the Lord....

Thanks be to God.

Verse Before The Gospel

JN 11:25A, 26

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; [L][SEP]

whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John [JN 11:1-45]

Narrator: Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying,

Reader 1: “Master, the one you love is ill.”

Narrator: When Jesus heard this he said,

Jesus: “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Narrator: Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples,

Jesus: “Let us go back to Judea.”

Narrator: The disciples said to him,

Reader 2: “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?”

Jesus: [Jesus answered,] “Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, they do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But if one walks at night, they stumble, because the light is not in them.”

Narrator: He said this, and then told them,

Jesus: “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.”

Narrator: So the disciples said to him,

Reader 1: “Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”

Narrator: But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly,

Jesus: “Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that

you may believe. Let us go to him.”

Narrator: So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples,

Reader 2: “Let us also go to die with him.”

Narrator: When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus,

Reader 1: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Narrator: Jesus said to her,

Jesus: “Your brother will rise.”

Reader 1: [Martha said to him,] “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus: [Jesus told her,] “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Reader 1: [She said to him,] “Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

Narrator: When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying,

Reader 1: “The teacher is here and is asking for you.”

Narrator: As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him,

Reader 2: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Narrator: When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping,^[L]he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,^[SEP]

Jesus: “Where have you laid him?”^[L]

Reader 1: They said to him, “Sir, come and see.”^[L]

Narrator: And Jesus wept.^[L]So the Jews said,

Readers 1 & 2: “See how he loved him.”^[L]

Narrator: But some of them said,

Reader 2: “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man^[L]have done something so that this man would not have died?”

Narrator: So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.^[L]It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.^[L]Jesus said,

Jesus: “Take away the stone.”^[L]

Narrator: Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him,^[L]

Reader 1: “Lord, by now there will be a stench;^[L]he has been dead for four days.”^[L]

Narrator: [Jesus said to her,]^[L]“Did I not tell you that if you believe^[L]you will see the glory of God?”^[L]

Narrator: So they took away the stone.^[L]And Jesus raised his eyes and said,^[L]

Jesus: “Father, I thank you for hearing me.^[L]I know that you always hear me;^[L]but because of the crowd here I have said this,^[L]that they may believe that you sent me.”^[L]

Narrator: And when he had said this,^[L]He cried out in a loud voice,^[L]

Jesus: “Lazarus, come out!”^[L]

Narrator: The dead man came out,^[L]tied hand and foot with burial bands,^[L]and his face was wrapped in a cloth.^[L]So Jesus said to them,^[L]

Jesus: “Untie him and let him go.”

Narrator: Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary^[L]and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

ALL: The Gospel of the Lord.....Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Contemplation Prompts:

1. Share with Jesus whatever grief you may have over the death of a loved one and let him weep with you as he wept for Lazarus.
2. The Prophet Ezekiel and the Apostle St. Paul both sing of God planting the Spirit within us. How have you experienced the Spirit stirring in your life?
3. The Psalmist cries out of the depths of his soul to God and experiences God's compassion. Remember a time when you've experienced God's calming presence.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – March 28 & 29, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Prayer Leader: Just as Jesus called his friend Lazarus out of the darkness of the tomb, so does he call each one of us into the light of the reign of God.

Reader:

1. We are called out of the gloom of fear and trembling, to take prudent steps to contain the corona-virus pandemic and support public health and political leaders seeking solutions. We pray: **Live in us, O God.** (ASSEMBLY RESPONDS: **Live in us, O God.**)
2. We are called out of the shadows of injustice to advocate for a fair distribution of goods and opportunities so that all people may have meaningful work and safe homes. We pray: **Live in us, O God.**

3. We are called out of the dreariness of doubt to pray for those who do not know God; for those who do not have a church home; and for those preparing to enter the church. We pray: **Live in us, O God.**
4. For all our loved ones in the military, especially those separated from their children that they are returned to us safely and experience a welcoming community. We pray: **Live in us, O God.**
5. For our newly appointed Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer, may he be welcomed by the people of Atlanta. We pray: **Live in us, O God.**
6. For all those who are separated from us by infirmity, and for all those living with HIV/AIDS, that they know our community's care for them. We pray: **Live in us, O God.**
7. For all the dead, that they see God face to face. We pray: **Live in us, O God.**
8. Please share any intention you may have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own needs. We pray: **Live in us.**

Presider: O God, you call us to new life with you, to forsake our tombs of doubt, despair and meaninglessness for a life of faith, hope and love with you. We pray in Jesus' name.....LET THE CHURCH SAY.....AMEN!

Pray or Sing the Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer:

Prayer Leader:

**As a human being, Jesus wept for Lazarus, his friend;
as eternal God, he called him forth from the tomb.
In his compassion for the human family, Christ leads us
by the Easter mysteries from death to new life.**

**Let your blessing, O Lord,
strengthen your faithful people,**

**that they may never turn from your will,
but always rejoice in your grace and favor.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.
Let the Church say.....AMEN!**