

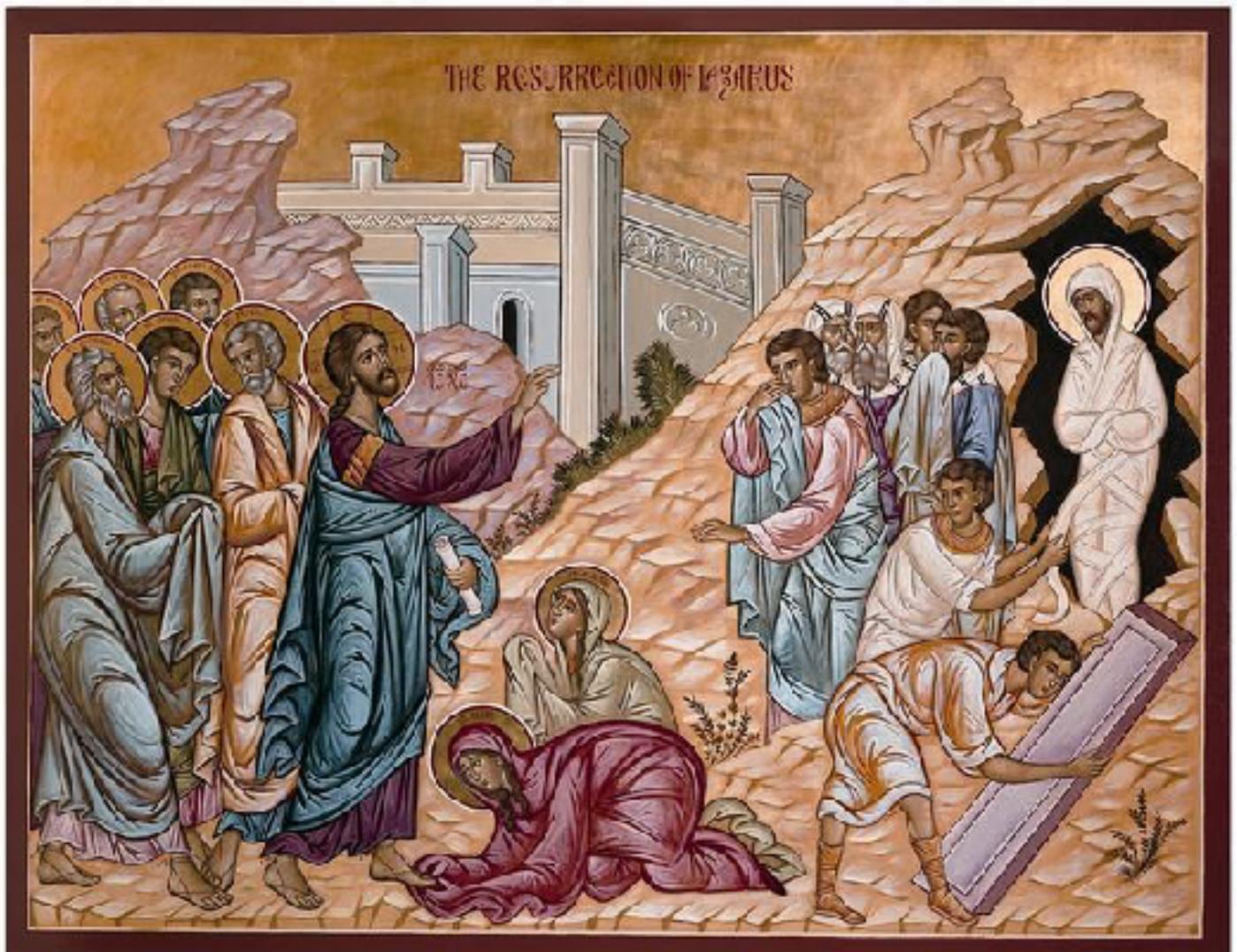


The Anglican Church of
Australia
The Diocese of Wangaratta



2nd April 2017
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Hymns: 181, 682, 409, 136



Introit Hymn

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord; ‘whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.’ *John 11.25–26*

For the Gloria we sing The Trisagion

Cantor All
Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and migh - ty, Ho - ly and Im - mor - tal, Have mer - cy on us.

THE COLLECT

Life-giving God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death: breathe upon 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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37.1-14

[Ezekiel’s prophesy of restoration in which he sees a valley of dry bones, and is called by God to prophesy that the bones come together and be clothed again in flesh, and then that the wind/breath/Spirit blow into them and bring them alive. In this way, he proclaims, God will bring life and restoration to God’s exiled people.]

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel proclaimed his vision, “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. 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. He asked me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ I said, ‘Sovereign Lord, you alone know.’ Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones and say to them, “Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 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.”’ 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. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. 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.”’ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army. 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.”’ 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. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

I am the resurrection | and the life;

whoever believes in me will | never die.

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

GOSPEL

John 11.1-45

[Jesus, on hearing of Lazarus' illness, returns after a short delay, to Judea, risking his own death, in order to raise Lazarus. After proclaiming himself as "the resurrection and the life" he raises Lazarus, and many people believe in him as a result.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.' 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Gracious God, our God of all compassion and consolation, your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls; pour out your Spirit upon us and help us to dance with the spirit, the breath of life, which calls us out of the valley of dry bones and into your Kingdom, both a present reality and the grounding of our future hope.

O God, put your spirit within us; **and we shall live.**

Creator God, source of all life and love, hear our prayer for your world and its peoples; for those whose lives are bound by war, oppression or disaster; for the people of Iraq and Syria particularly Mosul; for the hungry, the homeless, the refugees; for the leaders of the nations and for all who work for justice and peace; for the people of Somalia and South Sudan as they face famine and drought.

O God, put your spirit within us; **and we shall live.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the people of Queensland & NSW in recovery from the impact of Cyclone Debbie and the continuing flooding; for those who have lost their homes and businesses; for those grieving the dead; pray for all SES, police and emergency service personnel; breathe on you children your spirit of hope and possibility.

O God, put your spirit within us; **and we shall live.**

Loving God, **we** thank you, for the Spirit that is able to clothe dead bones with new flesh and give to them the breath of life. Hear our prayer as we pray for the Church,

breathe new life into your people and those who care for them; for John our Bishop and for our parish, may we live as people of the resurrection.

O God, put your spirit within us; **and we shall live.**

Living Lord, the breath of your Spirit brings life to dry bones and those dismissed as dead; your touch healed the lame, and opened the eyes of the blind; hear our prayers for those who are afflicted by sorrow and illness, by injustice and despair, by homelessness, fear and weakness; breath into their hearts, touch their bodies, speak their names, and bring new life to them; may we be the hands that hold and the arms to embrace in your love; for all in need and those who have requested prayer:

Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Fay Muddyman, Rob Muddyman, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe, Francis Piva, Sharon De Battista, Iris Haywood.

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

O God, put your spirit within us; **and we shall live.**

We thank you, loving God, for the vulnerable yet wonderful gift of life; we thank you, that from start to finish our life is precious in your sight; we pray for the recently departed for those who died as a result of the cyclone, and those whose years mind occurs at this time.

2nd Kelvin Prosser; 3rd Johannes deNiet; 4th Ian Kelm, John Butler; 5th Stan Cartwright, James Glare; 6th Frederick Schumann; 8th Gordon Kirk.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

O God, put your spirit within us; **and we shall live.**

God our comforter, your son wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, and you weep with us in our brokenness; hear us as we pray for ourselves; breathe on us your spirit of comfort and hope.

O God, put your spirit within us; **and we shall live.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray: **Our Father, in heaven [pg. 124].**

Reflections on the Readings

In this last week of Lent and as we prepare to move into Holy Week, the transition point this week is a focus on resurrection. God's people are given a vision of resurrection through the prophet Ezekiel. The Psalmist recognises God's grace, mercy and rescue, and Paul proclaims that God's Spirit gives us life in our whole being. John's Gospel, also in a prophetic narrative, describes the raising of Lazarus, and demonstrates that in the person of Jesus life and resurrection are to be found. So, as we prepare for the coming journey through Jesus' passion, we are reminded in advance that death does not have the last word, and that resurrection is promised and experienced in the midst of pain, threat and death. Through Lent we have been called to journey with Jesus, to learn the steps of God's life-dance from him. It is a challenge dancing with Jesus, but, if we are to join Christ in his resurrection, we must also journey with him to the cross. For every follower of Christ, and every Christian community, resurrection is both a promise and a challenge. It is a promise that opens us to God's life which inspires and empowers us every moment. It is a

challenge not to shy away from the sacrifices and struggles that we will inevitably face as we work for life and justice in our world. Daily we are called to lay down our own comfort and embrace simplicity for the sake of those who are poor. We are called to think carefully about what we buy and where, what we eat and how much, and how we do business for the sake always to be mindful of the face oppressive trade restrictions and unfair exploitation by the wealthy and powerful. Even our worship calls us to lay down our own preferences in favour of others so that they may encounter God in the way that is most helpful and transforming for them, rather than fighting for our own preferred styles and forms. All of this sacrifice can only be done if we truly believe in and embrace the promise of resurrection – for ourselves, that we will be led to fullness of life - and for our world, that our small contribution will make the world a more whole and alive place.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2017) <http://sacredise.com>

Notices

Lent Study - final study for 2017, this Friday 7th April 7.30pm at Caroline Burge, 20 Chrystobel Way Kilmore.

Christ church moves in - helpers are needed to move furniture back into Christ Church this Saturday 8th April. Begins 10am - all welcome to help as your can.

Parish BBQ Next Sunday 9th April, 12.30pm Hosts Len and Robyn Whitehouse 4 Kurkurac Court, High Camp; BYO meat. salad or desert to share and refreshments All welcome.

Notes on Holy Week - next Sunday is Palm Sunday celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the beginning of Holy Week. During this week we follow those dramatic days leading to Jesus' arrest and execution. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday there will be a 7.30am mass at Christ Church. On Maundy Thursday evening the Liturgy of Footwashing and Celebration of the Last Supper will be at Christ Church only. The Good Friday Liturgy is a dramatic reflection on the Passion of our Lord in each centre at usual worship times. The Easter Vigil Christ Church starts at dawn (7am) on Easter Day followed by Parish Breakfast and then the First Mass of Easter celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord at 9am, and these constitute the great Easter celebration. Service times for other centres are usual times and are in the pew sheet.

ABM Lenten Appeals - Envelopes have been made available. Please donate generously, either sending directly to ABM or leave in the collection.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings - Account details: BENDIGO BANK - Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore'; BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921. Parishioners using direct debit or electronic funds transfer please use these bank details when making offerings.

Parish life this week

Thursday 6th	10.00am Eucharist St Matthews 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
Friday 7th	10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House 7.30pm Lent Study
Saturday 8th	10.00am Working Bee Christ Church 10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop Church House

Holy Week and Easter Services 2017

Palm Sunday 9th April	9.00am 11.00am	Christ Church St Matthew's St Stephen's	Distribution of Palms & Sung Eucharist Distribution of Palms & Morning Prayer Distribution of Palms & Sung Eucharist
Monday of Holy Week	7.30am	Christ Church	Holy Eucharist
Tuesday of Holy Week	7.30am	Christ Church	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday of Holy Week	7.30am	Christ Church	Holy Eucharist
Maundy Thursday	10.00am 7.30pm	St Matthews Christ Church	Holy Eucharist Maundy Thursday liturgy
Good Friday 14th April	9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	Christ Church St Matthews St Stephens Transfiguration	Good Friday Liturgy
Easter Day 16th April	7.00am 8.00am 9.00am 11.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	Christ Church St Matthews St Stephens Transfiguration	Easter Vigil - Lighting of New Fire Parish Breakfast First Mass of Easter Mass of Easter Morning Prayer TBC Mass of Easter

Parish Clergy:

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764; Ph 5782 1155
m 0407 569 343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

Priest (PTO) Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett Street, Broadford, 3658 Ph 5784 2224

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Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning.