

## *St Luke the Evangelist - Glenrothes*

### **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

*Welcome to our distance prayers in the lack of public worship. Today is the 5th Sunday in Lent, and if we were operating normally we would have a joint service with St Luke's and St Finian's. So this morning I will ask you to focus on **BOTH our churches**, as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter.*

*Our worship this morning tells of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, more of that later. A few words in the gospel tells of Jesus' sadness and tells of Jesus showing his grief and emotions telling us **Jesus began to weep**.*

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

*So we focus our thoughts saying the collect for purity;*

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

#### *Confession and absolution*

Jesus died that we might live forgiven and free. Let us respond to his call and move forward to be cleansed and renewed in faith.

For those times when we have allowed the world's opinions to shape our thinking.  
Lord have mercy

For those times when we have allowed others' opinions judgements to shape our thinking.  
Christ have mercy

For those times when we have allowed our own desires to limit our loving.  
Lord have mercy.

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from my sin,  
Heal and strengthen us by your Spirit, and lead us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### *Collect of the Day*

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.

*Readings – you will find the appointed Gospel reading in a separate file, this week since it is a long reading I give you the Gospel lesson, say it slowly as it relates some of the circumstances relating to Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.*

*A period reflecting on the Gospel follows;*

This morning's Gospel has much room for many thoughts. As I said in the opening remarks we witness a few brief actions of Jesus when he learned of the death of his friend, Lazarus, and he wept. In a sense this confirms the humanity of Jesus. In this action he displayed his feelings, he gives us encouragement to acknowledge our shared humanity. All this occurred in Bethany on the road to Jerusalem where Jesus would be executed, dying a cruel death on a cross. For us we focus on an empty cross rather than a crucifix, the empty cross symbolises that he has risen, not defeated by death but confirming life in all we are.

In the last week I have learned that two people in Fife have died from the coronavirus, one from Glenrothes and another from Cowdenbeath. Sadly the coronavirus is now in our midst and while we pray for the eternal souls of these two we commit them to God and pray for their families and all who mourn their deaths.

But, a further thought from our Gospel lesson. One of the remarkable features is the difference of the response to Jesus. Martha opens her heart to Jesus and gives him her grief and her faith. In this reading we hear of her extraordinary features, first in verses-21 and 22, she tells Jesus; "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died", and then in verse 27 she makes an astonishing declaration of faith: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world".

So Martha can be an inspiration to us, in a number of ways, teaching us how to tame our inner monsters. For one thing that is certain that when the worst thing happens, whatever life throws at us we can be certain that God is with us. A useful opinion at this time of lock down!!!

*So we come to a moment, when we prayer for others;*

We pray together for all experiencing grief and bereavement. May their hearts be open to God.

Lord have mercy      Hear my prayer

We pray for those who are terrorised by imagined danger. May the Spirit comfort and reassure them

Lord have mercy      Hear my prayer

We pray for those who are struggling with loss of hope – those who are bereaved, jobless, or disadvantaged in any

Lord have mercy      Hear my Prayer

We pray for ourselves and the future as we prepare in both parts of the charge, to reach out in our communicates with a message of hope..

Lord in your mercy      Hear my prayer

Accept these prayers and all our petitions. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

*The , for your SonFather most holy of this worship asks you to contemplate the Eucharist, where we come together to share the bread and wine of the Eucharist*

*What follows is a litany on the Eucharist;*

Almighty and eternal God.  
We do well to praise you always  
Blessed are you,  
Father most holy, for your Son our Lord

Because he is  
Your Word, our peace and our Glory.  
Xx  
You promised him to Abraham  
And the children of Israel.<sup>11</sup>

The prophets fore told him.

Mary our mother carried him In her womb  
John the Baptist proclaimed him as "the lamb who was slain"

God of our fathers, and Lord of all mercy, through your wisdom,

You formed men and women to have dominion over creation, the work of your hands.

And so we celebrate his passion, death and resurrection'  
. And we wait in hope, for him to come again. In glory.

Receive, Lord, in the offering of your Son, the gift of our lives  
as a sacrifice of praise, intercession and thanksgiving.

We bless you, Lord,  
for giving you the body and blood of your risen Son

those who drink the cup have eternal life  
and Christ will raise them up on the last day

May we who eat his body and drink his blood  
bide in him and he in us.

May the Eucharist give us life  
and bring us into harmony with your will.

For to you belong majesty, power, glory and praise,  
now and all ages world without end. Amen

*we conclude saying the grace:*

the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit;  
be with us now and always. Amen.