

## READINGS

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

your power and glory

confound even death itself.

Call us forth from the tomb's dark shadows.

Break the bonds that hold us,

that we may live to proclaim Christ,

the cause of our liberation,

and the source of our life;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of hope,

in this Eucharist

we have tasted the promise of our liberation,

the richness of new and eternal life.

May we who bear witness to the death of Christ our Saviour,

also proclaim the glory of his resurrection,

for he reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

*A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel.*

God's hand came upon me, and carried me away by the Spirit, and set me down in a valley—a valley full of bones. I was made to walk up and down among them; and I saw that there was a vast number of bones lying in the valley, and that they were very dry.

God asked me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "Only you know that, O Sovereign One." Then God said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: 'O dry bones, hear the word of God. This is what your God says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will attach sinews on you, and will clothe you with flesh, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am your God'."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh clothed them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Then God said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: 'Thus says your God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live'." I prophesied as God commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel, which now says, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely'. Therefore prophecy, and say to them, 'Thus says your Sovereign God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am your God, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall

live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, your God, have spoken and will act upon it'. Thus says your God."

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

***Thanks be to God.***

## PSALM 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O God;  
O God, hear my voice;

**let your ears consider well  
the voice of my supplication.**

If you, O God, were to note what is done amiss,  
O God, who could stand?

**For there is forgiveness with you;  
therefore you shall be feared.**

I wait patiently for my God;  
my soul waits for God, in whom is my hope.

**My soul waits for God,  
more than sentinels for the dawn,  
yes, more than sentinels for the dawn.**

O Israel, wait for your God,  
with whom there is mercy;

**with whom there is plenteous redemption:  
Israel shall be redeemed from all their sins.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

*A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God: it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, this One who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies, through the Spirit that dwells in you.

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*  
***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL READING: John 11:1-45

*The Lord be with you.*

***And with thy spirit.***

*The Holy Gospel*

*of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*according to John.*

***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

*God be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*The Good News*

*of Jesus Christ*

*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 Jesus with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Rabbi, the one whom you love is ill."

When Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that God's Only-begotten may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though he loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill Jesus 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 people 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 this world's light.

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, "Rabbi, if he has fallen asleep, he will be alright." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, and 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 four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the people 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?" he asked her. She said to him, "Yes, I believe that you are the Messiah, God's Only-begotten, 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." When Mary 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 people 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 arrived at where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Teacher, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the people 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 wept. So it was said by the people, "See how he loved him!" But some

of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, 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, "Teacher, already there is a stench because he has been dead 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. Jesus looked upward and said,

"Father, I thank you for having heard me.  
(I know 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 people therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

*The Gospel of Christ.*  
***Praise be to Thee, O Christ.***

*The Gospel of Christ.*  
***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***