

**The Cathedral Church of
St. Michael and All Angels**
St. Michael's Row, Bridgetown, Barbados



HOLY EUCHARIST
Sunday, March 29th, 2020

Diocesan Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Michael B. St. J. Maxwell, MA

Dean: The Very Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson

Precentor: The Rev'd Canon George Knight

Assist. Priests: The Rev'd Dr. Marcus Lashley

Assist. Curate: The Rev'd Richard Kellman, LTh.

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Armel Marshall,
B.Sc.: Cert SM: Cert HRM:

Organist/Choir Master: Mr. John Bryan, B.Sc., B.Mus.

Organist: Mr. Eric Cobham, B.Sc., B.Mus.

Verger: Mrs. Chloe Grant

Assistant Verger: Ms. Harriett Lowe

March 29th, 2020
The Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Cathedral is closed; however, members are asked to pray the Office of Morning Prayer, at home with their household.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Sentence Lent page 33(BCP, CPWI)

The Sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart
O God, You will not despise. **Psalm 51:18**

Versicles & Responses

V. Blessed be the Lord our God,
R. **By whose grace we are yet alive.**

V. Blessed be His Son Jesus Christ,
R. **By whose rising we are set free.**

V. Blessed be the Spirit of God,
R. **In whom is our hope and our joy.**

Prayer of Intent

Let us pray

Father, we come together in the Name of your Son Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, to offer you our worship, praise and thanksgiving. To you belong all power and glory. You are the source of all goodness. Let our worship bear witness to your peace and saving power. Through your Spirit may we ever rejoice in the abiding presence of our risen and ascended Lord. Amen.

INVITATORY

Jubilate Psalm 100

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before His face with songs of joy,
Know that the Lord He is God:
it is He who has made us and we are His, we are His people
and the sheep of His pasture.
Come into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts
with praise: give thanks to Him and bless His holy Name.
For the Lord is good, His loving mercy is forever:
His faithfulness throughout all generations.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now: and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Confession & Absolution

The Minister says:

Lord, we pray to you for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

The Psalm 130

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

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit; as it
was in the beginning is now: and shall be forever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14 “The dry bones of Israel”

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’ ⁴Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.’ ⁷ 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. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹ Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.’

Benedictus Luke 1:68-79

Blessed are you, Lord the God of Israel;

You have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,

born of the house of your servant David.

Through his holy prophets

You promised of old to save us from our enemies

from the hands of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our forebears,

and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship you without fear,

holy and righteous before you

all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

To give God’s people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God:

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine upon those who dwell in darkness

and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. **Amen.**

The Second Lesson: John 11:1-45 “The death of Lazarus”

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ ⁴ 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.’ ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’ ⁸ The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?’ ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.’ ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.’ ¹² The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.’ ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ ²³Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ ²⁴Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ ²⁵Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ²⁷She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

Jesus Weeps

28 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.’ ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The 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. ³²When Mary came to 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.’ ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ ³⁷But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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.' ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The 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.'

The Plot to Kill Jesus

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Prayers

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

The minister shall say: Let us pray.

All

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Suffrages “B”

V. Show us mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collects

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Protection

O God, the lover of unity and author of peace, to know you is eternal life; to serve you is perfect freedom. Defend us your servants from all assaults of the enemy, that we may trust in your defence and nor fear the power of any adversary; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for the New Day

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the rest of the past night, and for the gift of a new day, with its opportunities of pleasing you. Grant

that we may so pass its hours in the perfect freedom of your service, that at evening we may again give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reflection: *From The Dean, The Very Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson*

The Reflection “Of Dry Bones and Strips of Cloths”

There are many profound proclamations in Holy Scripture and some of them are so familiar that we can easily overlook them. Today’s readings introduce us to two of them: in the Book of Ezekiel “I will put my spirit within you, and you will live, and I will place you on your own soil;” (37:14a), and in the Gospel of John, “I am the resurrection and the life.” (11:25a).

The Ezekiel passage speaks of resurrection to life. Here, the prophet means the restoration to national life after the humiliation of exile. That is life! It is about the physical, social and national life. In John’s Gospel, however, the essence of Ezekiel’s message comes to us from Jesus, who offered not only restoration to physical life, but also a taste of that intimate relationship with God: Father, Son and Spirit. In addition to his resurrection, Jesus therefore, promised to bring new life to those who believe in him, even beyond the grave. The proclamation that the “Dry Bones” will get new sinews and the strips of “grave cloth” will be untied, even though physical death will intervene, means the union with God will continue. All that is required of believers is to accept Christ and the life he offers, in all of life’s circumstances.

At present the novel coronavirus COVID – 19 pandemic has certainly evoked much fear and panic across the world, and of course in our island. It has certainly reminded us of the limitations of life. Somewhat like the people of Israel, who were exiled away

from their home, we may feel disrupted from our regular routine and wonder when will it all end!

Living under emergency conditions is totally new to all of us. Especially to our generation which has demonstrated its prowess in so many ways, including science and technology. The coronavirus has awakened in us our common humanity and highlighted its fragility - spreading with such ferocity across national borders, race, class, culture, religion, and any other social distinction. Yet, through the eyes of faith in Christ, as “the resurrection and the life”, we can be confident that we will discover a new vision out of the current situation. We trust that God who has given the plants of earth for the healing of humanity, will inspire the medical researchers to identify a vaccine to eradicate this rampaging illness. We can have confidence in God, that after the social distancing, humanity would be moved to a deeper embrace of renewed relationships at home and abroad; and, that the Church would be reinvigorated and be Christ in the world.

Let us not despair with the dry bones and strips of cloths around; instead, let us open ourselves for the “life of grace” which surrounds us, always.

Special Intentions for today: for the displaced people of the world; for families who grieve over the loss of their loved ones; and for deliverance and healing in the midst of the novel coronavirus COVID -19 pandemic.

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your Holy Word.
May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths,
and a strength to our lives.
Take us and use us to love and serve all persons

in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. *Amen.*

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Comment: *“The dry bones of Israel”*

In our first reading, **the prophet has a vision of the bones of a dead and hopeless people being restored to new life in their homeland.** The Lord calls upon Ezekiel as son of man to prophecy that the people who have experienced exile and many hardships will live again. The Spirit of the Lord restores their spirit and breath, and they rise from death. Although this passage can be understood to anticipate the hope of individual resurrection, Israel did not yet have this belief.

Psalm 130

The psalmist calls to the merciful Lord and waits upon God for forgiveness and redemption.

Second Reading (**The Epistle**): Romans 8:6-11

Comment *“Life in the Spirit”*

In this lesson **Paul draws a contrast between minds dominated by fleshly and worldly things and those in whom Christ lives and are set on the Spirit.** The person at enmity with God is incapable of fulfilling the intention of the law, but one in whom Christ dwells is animated by the Spirit of God, and that Spirit, through which God raised Jesus from the dead, also gives to believers true life in our mortal bodies.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

Comment: *“The raising of Lazarus”*

The Gospel is **the story of Jesus’ raising of Lazarus from the dead**. This is the last and greatest of Jesus’ signs, and it points beyond itself to the hope of a new life after death for all. Only slowly do Jesus’ friends begin to understand what he is saying to them and the deeper meaning of their own words. Soon the one who has raised Lazarus will himself be put to death, and then become the way of resurrection to eternal life.

CATHEDRAL NEWS

- 1. Confirmation Classes:** Please note that registration for Confirmation Classes has started. It is anticipated that Confirmation will be celebrated in November, as part of the Diocese’s “Mission 2020: God’s Gathering” initiative. Interested persons can collect forms from the table at the west door of the Cathedral. Completed forms should be returned to the Office as soon as possible.
- 2. Luncheon:** Please note that the Annual Family Day luncheon, originally planned for Sunday, May 3rd, 2020 has been postponed.
- 3. A Solemn Musick for Good Friday:** This annual recital, originally scheduled for Friday, April 10th, 2019 has been canceled.
- 4. Household Worship:** The cathedral is closed to public worship; however, members are encouraged to pray the office of Morning Prayer at the regular Sunday service times, 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M., or at a time convenient to the family. The Daily Office can also serve as a personal or family discipline. The Daily Lectionary for Lent 5 begins on page 745, in the Book of Common Prayer. Note further that this year is Year 2, and the readings for Monday, March 30th, 2020 are Exodus 4:10-20(21-26) 27-31; Psalm 31; and Mark 9:30-41.

5. **The Cathedral Church** is now fully closed further to the recent announcement of emergency measures by The Attorney General, The Honourable Dale Marshall, Q.C., M.P., due to Barbados being at Stage 3 of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic which restricts all Churches from opening.
6. **Office Hours:** The Cathedral Office will remain open on Monday to Friday, from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.
7. **Stewardship of Treasure:** During this period when the congregation is not assembling for corporate worship, I appeal to everyone to fulfil their individual financial commitments to God, in the mission of the Cathedral. By the regular use of the envelopes which have been issued. I further encourage members to make your contributions in any of the following ways:
 - i. Bring the offering to the Cathedral and lodge it with the Administrative Assistant at the Office, who will acknowledge receipt of the same.
 - ii. Write a cheque to St. Michael's Cathedral, place it in the regular offering envelope and then in another envelope addressed to The Dean, St. Michael's Cathedral, Bridgetown, St. Michael for mailing purposes.
 - iii. Make an online payment to the St. Michael's Cathedral, CIBC First Caribbean International Bank, Bridgetown Branch, Account # 27193-02.
 - iv. If none of these three arrangements is convenient, I ask that the offering be set aside, either weekly or monthly, as one would normally present it, and that the entire package be ready when corporate worship resumes.



Congratulations to all those persons celebrating birthdays this
week
29th March to 4th April 2020

Ms. Janice Edwards ~ 29th
Mr. Philip L Sydney Archer ~ 1st
Ms. Xenia A. Watson ~ 1st
Ms. Coral E. Riley ~ 3^d



May God bless and strengthen you.



THEME FOR THE WEEK

***“Our restoration to life is the reason God became
human and died for us.”***



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Mr. Arlington Watson, BSM. J.P.

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Mr. Samuel Maxwell Mr. Victor Sylvester

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Dr. Wendy Sealy

Alternative Synod Representative:

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Mothers' Union:	Mrs. Colleen Byer
Church Army:	Captain Donnah Russell
Woman's Auxiliary:	(Vacant)
Ushers' Guild:	Mrs. Juno Burrows
Outreach Committee:	Mrs. Delores Hinds
Guild of Servers:	Major. Charleston Maxwell and Mr. Jerry Alleyne
Health Ministry:	Dr. Wendy Sealy
Sunday School:	Mrs. Harriett Blackman
Flower Guild:	(Vacant)
Guild of St. Raphael:	Mr. Darwin Clarke



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