

# The Promise of New Life

## *A liturgy for the Fifth Sunday of Lent*

### ¶ *Gathering in God's Presence*

#### **Introduction**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**All And also with you.**

Though we are physically apart

**All We are united in love of Christ.**

The light shines in the darkness

**All And the darkness has not overcome it.**

*We light a candle. You may wish to light a candle at home too*

#### **Song: Be still, for the presence of the Lord**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;  
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.  
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.  
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

## **Prayers of confession (from Psalm 130)**

With the Lord is plenteous redemption,  
and he shall redeem us from all our sins.

Let us then turn to him and confess our sins in penitence and faith

### *Silence is kept*

Out of the depths have I cried to you; O Lord, hear my voice; •  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared.

Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.  
My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than the night watch for the morning.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy.

God our Father forgive you your sins,  
and bring you to the eternal joy of his kingdom  
where dust and ashes have no dominion.

**All Amen.**

## ¶ *Listening to the God's Word*

### **The Collect (Prayer for the Day)**

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel 37.1-14**

*At the end we say*

Into ancient words

*All* **You breathe new life.**

### **New Testament Reading – Romans 8.6-11**

*At the end we say*

Into ancient words

*All* **You breathe new life.**

### **Gospel – John 11.1-45**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ**

## Reflection



### ¶ *Responding to God in Faith and Prayer*

#### **Affirming our faith**

In his words and his life, Jesus shows us God's way.

Let us affirm again our commitment to that way:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**All for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,

**All for they shall be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek,

**All for they shall inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,

**All for they shall be satisfied.**

Blessed are the merciful,

**All for they shall obtain mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
**All for they shall see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
**All for they shall be called children of God.**

Blessed are those who suffer persecution  
for righteousness' sake,  
**All for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

*(from Matthew ch.5)*

In Jesus, the love of God comes close.  
**All We will walk his way.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*We use the response*

Breathe into us:  
**All so that we may live in you.**

*And at the end*

**Merciful Father**

**All Accept our prayers, for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Musical reflection**

*We listen to Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo (My song shall be  
always of the loving-kindness of the Lord – Psalm 89 v.1)*

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord is here

**All His Spirit is with us**

Lift up your hearts

**All We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**All It is right to give thanks and praise**

Loving God, the world you made is beautiful and fragile.  
You made us, with all your creatures,  
and called us to tend the earth with love.  
But what you made fertile, we have made desert;  
and when you call us to follow, we have turned away.

You gave us your prophets  
to challenge us to change our ways,  
and in the end you gave us Jesus, your Son,  
to heal and teach, and proclaim your kingdom come  
for all who had lost hope and were thirsty for life.

He made friends with anyone who would listen  
and loved even his enemies.  
For these things, he was crucified by the powers-that-be,  
but you raised him to life by your love,  
stronger even than death.

Your Holy Spirit strengthens us on the wilderness paths,  
refreshes us with living water,  
and inspires us to sing your praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

So with Jesus we praise you,  
with Jesus we pray for the brokenness of our world,

with Jesus we thirst for your kingdom  
to spring to life among us.

**All** Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us your children,  
and upon your whole creation.

Where we are straying, bring us back;  
where we are weeping, restore us;  
where we are dying, revive us;  
that we may walk in your ways  
and rejoice in your life,  
through Jesus Christ,  
life-giver, pain-bearer, love-maker.

**All** Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Hymn: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice,  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader  
than the measure of man's mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
There is room for fresh creations  
In that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all gladness  
in the joy of Christ our Lord

*Frederick William Faber (1814-1863) alt.*

## ¶ *God's Blessing on us for the week ahead*

**All** God of the wilderness,  
we thank you for meeting us  
as we offer our prayers and praises to you.  
Sustain us and go with us  
as we continue our journey  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And may the blessing of God,  
life-giver, pain-bearer, love-maker,  
be with us, and with all for whom we pray,  
through this Lent, and always.

**All** Amen.

We pray for peace, we look for peace,  
we speak of peace, we act in peace,  
we go in God's peace.

**All** Amen.

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