

Midweek Prayer Time – Week 4

*We offer this liturgy for a time of personal prayer,
hoping it will be a time of enrichment and encouragement in challenging times.
May God's peace and blessing be upon you today and each day to come.*

Psalm 73: 25 – 28

You're all I want in heaven!

You're all I want on earth!

When my skin sags
and my bones get brittle,
God is rock-firm and faithful.

Look! Those who left you
are falling apart!

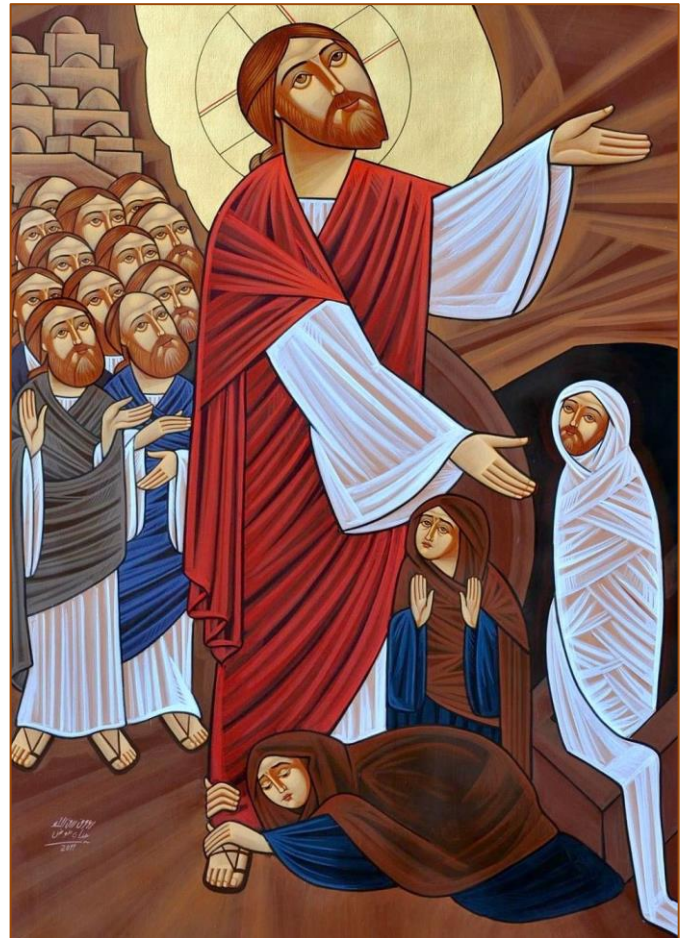
Deserters, they'll never
be heard from again.

But I'm in the very presence of God.

Oh, how refreshing it is!

I've made Lord God my home.

Lord God,
I'm telling the world what you do!



'Raising of Lazarus'
Coptic Icon

Prayer

...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...

God our Creator,
teach us to be a child of the earth,
to respect and honour all that you have made
and all that you bless with life.

May our living and our dying leave good things behind,
that our mark on earth may be beautiful and small.

God our Saviour,
may we bear always the mark of the cross,
and witness to the good news you proclaimed and lived.
May our face and our whole life be a sign of your presence with us
and bear testimony for all to your saving and redeeming love.

God the Holy Spirit,
carry us like dust on the tides of your transforming power.
May our life be swept
and made clean by your purifying flame.
And when we are done with life
may there be a new beginning, that life may stir once more. Amen.

Scripture reading from the Gospel of John 11.17 - 27 (NRSV)

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 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."

Hold a period of silent reflection following the reading – use the icon to help reflect.

Prayer

Lord, you are the resurrection and the life:
you have called us out of darkness into light,
out of bondage into freedom,
out of despair into hope, out of sadness into joy,
out of the tomb to fullness of life, out of death to eternal life.
Praise be to you, O Lord, for you have opened to us the gate of glory. Amen.

Prayer from the World Church - Eglise Unie du Canada

We are not alone.
We live in God's world.
We believe in God who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make us new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil.
We proclaim God's kingdom. In life, in death, God is with us.
We are not alone.
We believe in God. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

*A time to offer prayers of concern, for local, national or world issues,
for thanks or for whatever is on your heart....*

Loving God,
we pray for all who are bearing heavy burdens.
Those facing difficulties and problems to which they can see no solutions,
wrestling with inner fears and phobias, racked by anxiety for themselves or loved ones,
troubled about money, health, work or relationships.
All who crave rest for their souls but cannot find it.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Time for silent prayer, after a period of 2 or 3 minutes silence conclude

Loving God,
we pray not only for others but also ourselves,
acknowledging that sometimes we too feel crushed under a weight of care.
Speak to all in your still small voice,
and grant the peace and quiet confidence that only you can bring;
and so may burdens be lifted and souls refreshed.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer, in the name of Christ.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer...

Closing Prayer (St Gregory of Nazianzus (c.330-389) adapted)

Christ, Light of the World, risen in glory,
scatter the darkness from our hearts and minds and from this world.
Give us, O Lord, a heart that thinks on you,
a soul that delights in you,
a mind that meditates on you
and an intellect that understands you.
Today we rejoice in the salvation of the world.
Christ is risen; let us arise in him!
In him a new creation is coming to birth, Alleluia!
Lord make us new! Alleluia!