

Order of Service for March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 am

Officiating & Preaching:

The Rev'd Fergus Tyson



'THE SIGN OF JONAH'

Therefore we will not fear. . . Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam. Though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Psalm 46:2

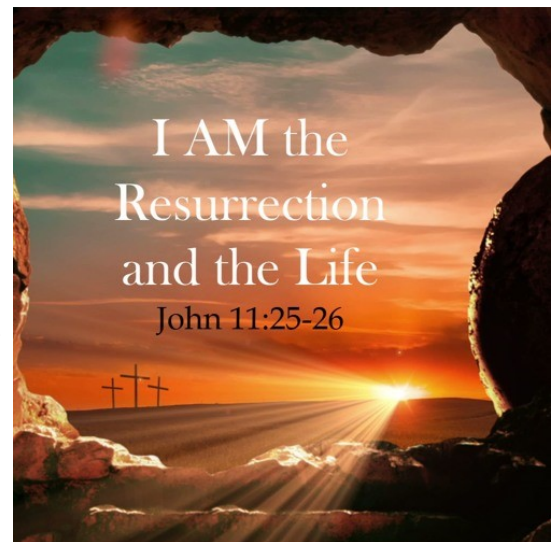
The great sign, which can be understood only by those who follow Jesus, is the sign of Jonah, who also wanted to run away from reality but was summoned back to God to fulfill his arduous task to the end. To look suffering and death straight in the face and to go through them oneself in the hope of a new God-given life: that is the sign of Jesus and of every human being who wishes to lead a spiritual life in imitation of him. It is the sign of the cross: the sign of suffering, and death, but also the hope for total renewal. (Letters to Marc about Jesus, by Henri J.M. Nouwen, p. 30

Jesus obliquely referred to the resurrection as the "sign of Jonah." As Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so did Jesus spend three days in the earth. Jonah was not like Jesus, though. Jonah saw the difficulties ahead in living the life to which God had called him and ran away. Jesus, by contrast, faced suffering and death and demonstrated that the way out was through.

Facing difficulties in our lives sometimes is an annoying inconvenience. But at other times, it's terrifying and unbearable. When difficulties arise, we are called to be like Jesus, not like Jonah. We are called to take on the challenges before us, confident that this is the way by which we will find salvation.

Loving Father, sometimes my problems seem like an overwhelming force. Give me your comfort and confidence and renew my spirit. Amen

From Suffering to Salvation: Inspiration from Henri J. M. Nouwen, p. 28



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (screens)

Greeting (screens)

The Collect of the Day (screens)

Psalm 130 (screens)

The Holy Gospel

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: *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 the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 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." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he 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 Jews 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 the light of this world. 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, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but 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 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." 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." And when she 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 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. When Mary came 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." When Jesus saw her weeping,

and the Jews 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 began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again 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, "Lord, 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. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I 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." 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 Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

JOHN 11:1-45

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Homily

The Apostles' Creed (screens)

Confession & Absolution (screens)

The Peace (screens)

Offertory (screens)

Prayer over the Gifts (screens)

Intercessions and Thanksgivings (screens)

Prayer for a Pandemic (screens)

Prayer for Health Care Workers (screens)

The Lord's Prayer (screens)

Closing Hymn: Rejoice, the Lord is King (screens)

Blessing

Dismissal (screens)

Prayers for this Week

(bold italics indicate new or special emphasis this week)

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we *pray for all Anglicans throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion to live faithfully as disciples of Jesus, spreading his reign of light and love by our words and deeds.*

In the Anglican-Lutheran Prayer Cycle: In the Anglican Church we pray for the *theological colleges and training programs within the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada: The Atlantic School of Theology, Montreal Diocesan Theological College, and Queen's College* and in the Lutheran Church we pray for the dean, council, and congregations of the Northwestern Ontario Area of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod.

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the parish of *Alberta Children's Hospital: The Rev. Jerrod McCormack; Foothills Hospital, Calgary; Rockyview Hospital & Peter Lougheed Centre (Casual staff): The Rev. Carolyn Herold; Peter Lougheed Centre: Tracey Stagg; St. Marguerite Manor, Calgary The Rev. Giovanni DiVincenzo; Bethany Care Centre, Airdrie: The Rev. Brian Way; and Red Deer Regional Hospital.*

We lift to you our friends, in our Companion Diocese, the Windward Islands.

In our Parish Cycle, we *pray for the safety and well-being of all members of our Parish, and pledge to stay connected with one another and face the challenges of COVID-19 together; we remember our clergy, Fergus Tyson, Cyril Haynes, Norman Knowles, Bob Mummery, and their families; and we especially uphold all who are infirm, immune-compromised, or on the front lines in this battle.*

We pray for our foster child Desta Keweti.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health, comfort and strengthen those of our parish who are sick, injured or distressed, and those approaching or recovering from surgery, especially we lift up to you *the family of Joy (Abby's sister), the family of Barrin, Antony, Judy, the family of John, Crystal (niece of Rosemarie), Bill & Pat,* for the family of Bob, *the family of Carmen, John, the family of Bonnie, Gerald, Molly (mother of Sian), the family of Simon, Stephen, Dwight (Dorothy-Ann's cousin), Jo, the family of Brenda (relative of the Collers), the family of Joan (mother of Richard), Tracy, Julia, the Herritt family in their bereavement, Gael, Verna and her family, , Michael, Barb, Jen, Patrick, the family of Helen, Eleanor, Lena, Dorothy, the family of Mauricia (mother of Ella), Max & Rebecca, Anne Lowry, Dozy's & Obie's family, Kathy, Kevin, Richard (friend of Anne), Terry, Jerrod, Lynne (sister of Sheila), the family of Ann & Peter, Melissa and her family (friends of Jenn), Dennis, Mike, Val, Martin, the family of Gwladys, Sheila, Melissa and her family, Adrianna, Peggy, Bob and Joanne, the family of Douglas, Michelle, Ian, the family of Nina, Pat, Christine, Rick (brother of Sheila), Gwen, Jacqueline, Ellen, Monika (mother of Dennis), Kathy (daughter of Bob & Joanne), Trudy (cousin of Iona), Len, Andrea's and Andrew's family, Margaret, and Marlene.*

We commit into our Lord's eternal keeping *Andy (husband of Roxie) and James (father of Allison Pierce), who have passed into eternal life this week. Rest eternal grant to Andy and James, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen. We pray for comfort for Roxie, Allison, Chris, and their families in their bereavement.*

We pray for containment of the COVID-19 coronavirus worldwide, and full restoration of health for all those who are ill with it.

We pray for all struggling economically, and all those affected by fires, floods, storms and other natural disasters. We pray for us all to stand together in hard times.

We pray for peace and justice in our own country and for an end to violence throughout the world. In particular, we pray for those whose lives have been torn apart by the violence; safe haven for all who have fled their homes; repentance for the perpetrators of evil; and for protection and guidance for all in law enforcement or our military in danger at home or overseas. May your Holy Spirit guide world leaders to seek just resolutions to all conflicts, that all people may come to know your peace that passes all understanding and war be no more.

We thank you for your healing touch which sustains us every day, for all the many healings that have taken place in our parish, and for your unending mercy as you hear our prayers.



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by the Breu Family in loving memory of Erwin Leonard Breu, April 1 is the 11th anniversary of Erwin's "home going", so this is the nearest Sunday.