

# MORNING PRAYER FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Sunday, March 29 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

## PREAMBLE

Below you will find a service for Morning Prayer that includes readings, prayers, and family devotions. Hopefully this will help us worship together on Sundays, even at a distance. We are living through challenging times, but we have an amazing opportunity to take up new practices of reading, singing, and praying in our own homes with family. We are not alone in this. God is in our midst, leading us through ...

How to begin ... Choose someone to lead (unbolded parts); the rest of the family can respond in unison (bolded parts). Depending on your kids' ages, you may want to divide up responsibilities for the Psalm, Collect of the Day and Lord's Prayer. The Gospel reading is from the NLT which is one of the most accessible translations available.

Adults should lead the family devotions. Have fun with that. 😊 Don't stress about doing it right. There's no ideal "right." Notice that I've included a video to go along with the reading (thanks to Vicki B for that great idea!). I'm thinking this will be especially helpful if you've got young children.

If this feels awkward, not to worry. Be free to experiment and explore in a playful spirit. If you want to trim everything down just to the Gospel reading and family devotions, feel free to do that. Above all, be at peace. Do what you can; leave the rest behind. We're all in this together.  
- Pastor Sean+

## OPENING SENTENCES

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**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.**

## PSALM

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let us worship.**

O God, you are my God;  
I earnestly search for you.  
My soul thirsts for you;  
my whole body longs for you  
in this parched and weary land  
where there is no water.  
I have seen you in your sanctuary  
and gazed upon your power and glory.  
Your unfailing love is better than life itself;  
how I praise you!  
I will praise you as long as I live,  
lifting up my hands to you in prayer.  
You satisfy me more than the richest feast.  
I will praise you with songs of joy.  
I lie awake thinking of you,  
meditating on you through the night.  
Because you are my helper,  
I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.  
I cling to you;  
your strong right hand holds me securely.

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let us worship.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

You might want to begin by watching this video from *Stories of the Bible* on Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dca8SSxXCmM>

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, chapter 9, beginning at verse 1.  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. <sup>2</sup> This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. <sup>3</sup> So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." <sup>5</sup> So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> he stayed where he was for the next two days. <sup>7</sup> Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

<sup>8</sup> But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But at night there

is danger of stumbling because they have no light.” <sup>11</sup> Then he said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.”

<sup>12</sup> The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!” <sup>13</sup> They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

<sup>14</sup> So he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> And for your sakes, I’m glad I wasn’t there, for now you will really believe. Come, let’s go see him.”

<sup>16</sup> Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, <sup>[c]</sup> said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go, too—and die with Jesus.”

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. <sup>20</sup> When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup> “Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.” <sup>28</sup> Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, “The Teacher is here and wants to see you.” <sup>29</sup> So Mary immediately went to him.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. <sup>31</sup> When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus’s grave to weep. So they followed her there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. <sup>34</sup> “Where have you put him?” he asked them.

They told him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Then Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> The people who were standing nearby said, “See how much he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. <sup>39</sup> “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

<sup>40</sup> Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?” <sup>41</sup> So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. <sup>42</sup> You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> And the dead man came out, his

hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

<sup>45</sup> Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **FAMILY DEVOTIONS**

### ***EXPLORING THE GOSPEL***

Try one or more of the following:

- Discuss it...
  - Who are the main characters?
  - Where does Jesus show up? What does he do?
  - What do you like about this story? What do you find strange or surprising?
  - Try answering these questions together in conversation...
- Dramatize it ...
  - How would you turn this story into a skit?
  - What are the different parts?
  - What is the basic plot?
  - Try acting out the story together while someone reads ...
- Draw it ...
  - What are the important characters or scenes to focus on?
  - Are there moments that you'd like to turn into a picture?
  - Try sketching or painting the story together with each person focusing on a different part ...

### ***LISTENING FOR GOD***

- The word "Gospel" means "good news." What makes this story good news?
- What could God be saying to us through this story? What is he showing us about himself?
- How can we respond to God in prayer? Is there something good to celebrate? Something to confess? Something to ask for?
- Let's pray ...

**\*Memory verse for the week:** Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die." John 11:25-26

## THE COLLECT

Almighty God,  
through the waters of baptism  
your Son has made us children of light.  
May we ever walk in his light  
and show forth your glory in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

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