

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45 (cont)

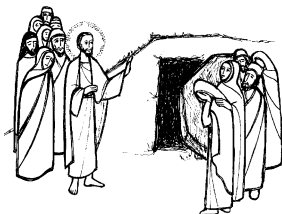
²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even 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.'

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 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?'

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.'

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



PEWS NEWS

The Astwell Benefice

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury and St Lawrence Radstone and St James the Great Syresham with St John the Evangelist Whitfield, St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham.

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

Sunday 29th March 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent

IMPORTANT NOTICE - COVID-19 virus

From a message from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to clergy on 24th March 2020:

*'Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, it is imperative that for the health of the nation and in order for the National Health Service itself to manage the increase in those requiring medical help, the Church of England strictly observes the new guidelines on staying at home and only making journeys that are absolutely necessary, such as shopping for essential items and to take daily exercise. **Our church buildings must now be closed not only for public worship, but for private prayer as well** and this includes the priest or lay person offering prayer in church on their own. We must take a lead in showing our communities how we must behave in order to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus'.*

Please have a look at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

and

<https://crosskeysmag.org.uk/>

for more information on virtual services, prayer readings and 'Thought for the Day' videos

and

Alice Palmer is doing daily Morning Prayer readings from Vine Cottage – please go to the Home page of the Benefice website www.astwellparishes.org.uk and click on the Morning Prayer link

DO YOU NEED HELP OR COULD YOU HELP SOMEONE IN NEED?

If you are able to safely reach out to someone who is elderly, disabled or self-isolating, and help them, within the restrictions now in place, please do so. Most of the villages in our Benefice now have a system of 'helpers' who can do shopping, collect prescriptions etc, or just make a friendly phone call to those in need.

Please email rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com if you need help yourself, or if you can help someone else.

To hold in your prayers this week:

We bring before our loving heavenly Father those who are unwell, recovering from illness or who are simply having a bad time, and all those who need our prayers:

From Helmdon: Joyce Beech, Philip Gulliver, Emma, Jon & Ellouise, Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, Vanessa Vicars, John Thorne, Alison & Cara.

From Lois Weedon: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Jeremy "Jez" Wilcox, Ernie Wheeler & Colin James.

From Syresham: Derek Hollyoake, Peter Sims, John & Ann Widdowson and Collette Andrewartha.

From Wappenham: Judy King and Claire Kennett.

For those known to us:

Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Jonnie D'Arcy, James Smillie, Peter Sheen, Dick White, June Brereton, Roger Cane, Penny Bonnymeade, Barbara Whitlock, Steve Goodwin, Ollie Dotterill and Christabel Grant.

Please pray for those bereaved, and the family & friends of: Dorothy D'Alton (nee Abbot), Sally Gore, Dorothy Abbott, Teresa Fleetwood, James Gadd, Ron Pratt, Margaret Hinton, Judith Allen, Marcus Durant, Tom Samways, Greg Oles, Mike Durant, Stewart Gundle, Ian Kidd, Richard Tims, Peter Payne, Ivan Hathaway, Robin Oliver, Sue Corbishley, Jason Holt & Shirley Holt, Dennis Hackett, Dick Wilson, Mark Kilby, Keith Hawkins. And also for the Bearman family, Susan Clarke & family, Kathryn and Peter Oliver, & Geoff and Jo Abbey.

Also, please pray for the work of the Beacon Centre, The Wolverton Mission, the Hope Centre, Katharine House Hospice and Northampton Women's Aid. We also continue to pray for all refugees fleeing persecution, all victims of terror, and all those affected by the Covid-19 virus.

A Message from Malcolm Orr-Ewing, our local organizer for Hope Centre deliveries: *The Hope Centre is closed until April 14th. Many of our drivers are over 70 and are at risk, therefore I have been in touch with the younger drivers on our rota, asking them to do a bit more and I have also recruited a few more, so, so far, we are maintaining our support for the Wolverton Mission and Hope Centre.'*

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The Collects & Gospel Reading for The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Collects:

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴But 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.' ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹Jesus 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. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹²The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

¹⁷When 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.'

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