

Sunday Gathering, March 29, 2020, 8AM & 12PM

Zoom Orientation

Center & Connect

12PM ONLY: Gathering song: "Precious Lord, take my hand"

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.**

**Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears and the night draws near
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand - guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD: John 11:1-53

NARRATOR Now, a man named Lazarus was ill. Lazarus and his sisters,
Mary and Martha, were friends with Jesus. So the sisters sent
word to Jesus to come to them.

MARTHA Lord, your friend whom you love is sick!

NARRATOR Two days later, Jesus said to his disciples,

JESUS Let us go back to Judea.

DISCIPLE Rabbi, when we were last there, the religious leaders were
trying to have you killed! Why would we go back?

JESUS If we walk in the light, we will not stumble. Our friend Lazarus
has fallen asleep, and I must wake him up.

DISCIPLE If he is asleep, why does he need your help?

JESUS Lazarus is dead. Let us go to him.

DISCIPLE Yes, let's go die with him, I guess...

NARRATOR So they went to Bethany, where Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha lived. When they arrived, Lazarus had already been buried in a tomb for four days. Martha, his sister, came out to meet Jesus.

MARTHA Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now, I know that God will do whatever you ask.

JESUS Your brother will rise again.

MARTHA I know he will rise again when God raises all people from death, at the end of time.

JESUS I am life from death. Those who trust in me will live forever, even if their mortal bodies die. Do you believe this?

MARTHA Yes, Lord; I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One coming into the world.

NARRATOR Then Martha went and sent her sister Mary to see Jesus.

MARY Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

NARRATOR And Jesus began to cry.

DISCIPLE Look, Jesus is crying! I guess he really loved his friend Lazarus. But if he can make a blind person see, couldn't he have saved his friend?

NARRATOR Then they came to the tomb.

JESUS Take away the stone that seals the door.

MARTHA Lord, he has been dead for four days. It will smell very bad.

JESUS Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?

NARRATOR So they took away the stone. And Jesus prayed.

JESUS Father, God, I thank you for hearing me. I know you are always listening when I pray. I'm saying this out loud so that the people here know that you are answering our prayers. [SHOUTS] Lazarus! Come out!

NARRATOR Then Lazarus came out of the tomb, still wrapped in grave cloths.

JESUS Unbind him, and let him go!

NARRATOR Many people saw this amazing act and believed in Jesus. But some went to the religious leaders in Jerusalem and told them about it. So the religious leaders held a meeting.

LEADER 1 What are we going to do? This man Jesus is performing many amazing signs and miracles. People are following him. This may become a movement, and then a rebellion - and then the Roman army will come destroy our Temple and our whole nation!

LEADER 2 It is better to have one man die for the people, than for the whole nation to be destroyed.

NARRATOR So from that day onward, they planned to have Jesus killed.

Discussion & Homily

Song: "How Shall we Come Together"

Maggie Wheeler

Praying Together

- For those who are sick
- For those who are taking care of the sick, and helping fight illness in other ways
- For all those who are struggling with loneliness, anxiety, or need
- For those who just really miss friends, school, work, and normal life
- For our leaders
- For all the nations and peoples of the world
- For our cities and towns, our state, and all our neighbors
- For those who have died, especially those we remember with love today.
- We give thanks for our blessings...

The General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and lovingkindness
to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

12PM ONLY: Closing hymn: #610

**1. Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed,
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.**

**2. Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.**

**3. As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light,
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.**

**4. Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.**

Blessing & Time to Visit