

**Readings for 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Lent 5**

**A reading from Exodus chapter 6 beginning at verse 2. [2-13]**

**God also spoke to Moses and said to him:**

**‘I am the LORD.**

**I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty,  
but by my name “The LORD” I did not make myself known to them.**

**I also established my covenant with them,  
to give them the land of Canaan,  
the land in which they resided as aliens.**

**I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites,  
whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves,  
and I have remembered my covenant.**

**Say therefore to the Israelites,**

**“I am the LORD, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and  
deliver you from slavery to them.**

**I will redeem you with an outstretched arm  
and with mighty acts of judgement.**

**I will take you as my people, and I will be your God.**

**You shall know that I am the LORD your God,  
who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians.**

**I will bring you into the land**

**that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob;**

**I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.” ’**

**Moses told this to the Israelites; but they would not listen to Moses, because  
of their broken spirit and their cruel slavery.**

**Then the LORD spoke to Moses,**

**‘Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt  
to let the Israelites go out of his land.’**

**But Moses spoke to the LORD,**

**‘The Israelites have not listened to me;  
how then shall Pharaoh listen to me, poor speaker that I am?’**

**Thus the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron,  
and gave them orders regarding the Israelites**

**and Pharaoh king of Egypt,  
charging them to free the Israelites from the land of Egypt.**

**Hear the word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 131**

- 1. O Lord, my heart is not proud:  
nor are my eyes haughty.**
- 2. I do not busy myself in great matters:  
or in things too wonderful for me.**
- 3. But I have calmed and quieted my soul  
like a weaned child upon its mother's breast:  
like a child on its mother's breast is my soul within me.**
- 4. O Israel, trust in the Lord:  
from this time forward and for ever.**

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. [11.1-45]  
*Glory to your 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 for 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 for 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 upwards 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.**

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**  
***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***