

Dear Beloved,

As we approach the end of Lent and Easter is only 2 weeks away we have a reading which is on the very eve of holy week and shows how Jesus approached his coming suffering. May we follow Jesus and walk in his light and love.

Lenten prayer

With our eyes on Jesus, we journey through Lent trying to understand and accept what God has in store for us. Jesus did this, and he is our example. Even as he died, Jesus gave himself over to whatever God wanted of him. Help us Lord to do your will.
Amen



Please find attached the March *Anglican News*. Regular issues of the Anglican News will now recommence. You can email any contributions to this email address:
anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au.

The larger pdf is available on the website for any printing: <https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/01.-Anglican-News-March-2023.pdf>

Blessings

Wendy

AGMS
Jerangle Today
Parish 2nd April

Please get minutes and reports to Colleen asap

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Palm Sunday Picnic Sunday 2nd April 12.00 - 2.00 After AGM at Norris Park
BYO drinks and chairs
PTO →

Easter Services at Cooma

6th April 8 pm Maundy Thursday

7th April 10.00 am Good Friday

9th April 10.00 am Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday Adaminaby

Sunday 9th April 3.00 pm

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Combined Easter Services

Jeranagle Saturday 8th April 11 am

Bredbo Saturday 8th April 3pm

Nimmitabel Saturday 8th April 5.30pm

Numeralla Sunday 9th April 11.30am

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Morning Tea after the Service in Cooma On 2nd and 4th Sundays
please volunteer for the roster.

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Autumn Open Garden Day

16th April

Please pot plants up now

and tell Nella WHAT YOU CAN BRING FOR AFTERNOON TEA

give her any donations towards cost of the raffle prize and other expenses

Tickets will be on sale at the Fabric Salon this week

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Midweek Services every Wednesday at 9/30 all Welcome

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Vocal ensemble Concert in our Hall 26th March 2.30 pm

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Please volunteer for the roster, well in advance.

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Prayer and Praise

Wendy

Edith and Colin Mayhew --

Glenn Fletcher .. for his recovery

our wardens and Parish Councillors

--

Bernie and Gayle as they grieve for Bernie's Mum

--

Scott's wife Jennie.

Beattie Russell and Jenni Roberts in Yallambie.

--

Liz Pirie

Leanne Lowery

Mary Mitchell

--

Peter & Julie Harris from Bredbo

all congregations in Jerangle

--

The New Catholic priest Father Mark Croker as he ministers from Bombala
through to the mountains

--
for each other that we may be salt and light in this community
--
People everywhere who are living through war or disasters of every kind.

26 March 2023

Hymn TIS 580 Lead us heavenly Father

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Sentence

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord; 'whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.' John 11.25–26

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Life-giving God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death: breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Ezekiel 37.1-14

¹ The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.

³ He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'Sovereign Lord, you alone know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!" ⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'"

¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: 'Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off." ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"

Psalms 130

¹ Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice;

² O let your ears consider well: the voice of my supplication.

³ If you, Lord, should note what we do wrong: who then, O Lord, could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you: so that you shall be feared.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him: and in his word is my hope.

⁶ My soul looks for the Lord: more than watchmen for the morning, more, I say, than watchmen for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is ample redemption.

⁸ He will redeem Israel: from the multitude of their sins.

Romans 8.6-11

⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

John 11.1-45

¹ Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.' ⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.' ⁸ 'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?' ⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.' ¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.' ¹² His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' ¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.' ²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. 'The Teacher is here,' she said, 'and is asking for you.' ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. ³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ 'Where have you laid him?' he asked. 'Come and see, Lord,' they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ 'Take away the stone,' he said. 'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.' ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.' ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

Holy God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Jesus said, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and who ever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6.35

Prayer of Approach

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn TIS 684 Love will be our Lenten Calling

OFFERTORY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Thanksgiving 4

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise, glory and honour, be yours at all times, in every place, holy and loving Father, true and living God. We praise you that through your eternal Word you brought the universe into being and made us in your own image. You have given us this earth to care for and delight in, and with its bounty you preserve our life. We thank you that you bound yourself to the human race with the promises of a gracious covenant and called us to serve you in love and peace. Above all, we give you thanks for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ: born as one of us, he lived our common life and offered his life to you in perfect obedience and trust.

By his death he delivered us from sin, brought us new life, and reconciled us to you and to one another. Therefore with angels and archangels, with apostles, and prophets, with holy men and women of every age, we proclaim your great and glorious name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that we who eat and drink them in obedience to our Saviour Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may be partakers of his body and blood, and be made one with him and with each other in peace and love.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament, renew us by your Spirit that we may be united in the body of your Son and serve you as a royal priesthood in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

After Communion

Compassionate and loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ you have fed us and have reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of fasting and prayer, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Hymn TIS 132 Holy Holy Holy

Blessing

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself, that you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sin forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen**



'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'Sovereign Lord, you alone know.

Both our Old Testament and Gospel readings today talk about rising from the dead. The people of Israel in the time of Ezekiel described themselves as dead. Their lives had lost all meaning and especially all hope, they could see no way that their lives could improve and they could see no sign that God cared for them in any way. God has provided a prophet but as usual most of what he said was doom and gloom and who listens to prophets anyway?

But one day the Lord sent the prophet a vision, a vision of life, of dry bones that grew bodies, and then lived and became a great army.

¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord."

They had been waiting so long for the Lord to act that they were certain it was never going to happen and they had lost faith. When Faith is lost, hope is gone, and life becomes worthless. But God was not unfaithful, God is never unfaithful, his timing is often very different to ours, but it is always spot on.



In our gospel reading the two sisters sent word to Jesus because their brother Lazarus was very ill. They knew that Jesus loved them all and that if Jesus was there, he would certainly heal their brother. The sisters loved their brother but also if he died, they would be in dire straits because a household with a man in those days was terribly vulnerable. So, Jesus waited 2 days, he didn't even mention it to the disciples. He didn't prepare to go. He didn't send messages back saying 'we're coming'. He just stayed there.

What was he doing? From the rest of the story, I think we can tell. He was praying. He was asking his Father for directions. His disciples concerns when they find out are quite genuine, the authorities had wanted to stone Jesus, surely he wouldn't go back so soon. Bethany was and is a small town just a few kilometres from Jerusalem, and easy walk from the holy city. And who knows what might happen this time. Actually, Jesus knew what would happen, he knew that if he went the authorities would kill him.



You see this story is not just about Lazarus. It's also about Jesus, it starts with the disciples not wanting Jesus to go anywhere near Jerusalem and ends after today's reading with the high priest's deciding to kill Jesus. This story is the very eve of Easter. This story is the final straw which sets the train of events in action. Jesus knew his whole ministry how his life would end; he walked the whole time in the shadow of the cross but out of love for his people he bore that burden with grace. He spent those two days checking with his Father that the time was right, and he was obeying his will.



God never plays games with us. And yet his ways are not our ways. His timing is not our timing. How many times in my life have I waited and waited for God to do the thing he had promised but when it happens it is always right. Waiting to be ordained, waiting for the right job, waiting for healing, waiting for his word, waiting for our house to start, you'd think I'd be good at it by now, but I hold on, trusting him and only scream a little.

Jesus knew the Father could and would raise Lazarus from the dead but he needed to be sure that he was totally in tune. When at the tomb Jesus thanks his Father for answering his prayers it is those prayers, on those two long days that he is referring to. He was praying for Lazarus, but he was also praying for wisdom and guidance for himself. What Jesus was going to do for Lazarus would be on the one hand, a principal reason why the authorities would want him out of the way but on the other hand the most powerful sign yet of what Jesus' life and work was all about.



This story is about the ways in which Jesus surprised people and overturns their expectations. He didn't go when the sisters asked him, and their brother died. He did go although his disciples warned him not to do so. He went when the time was right because that is what his Father wanted him to do. In our lives all we can do is hold on and trust that God will act when the time is right, not when we think it is right, not when others think it is right but when it is right in the whole picture of our lives.

Thomas is sometimes called Doubting Thomas but look at him here. Thomas is loyal, dogged, slow to understand things but determined to go on putting one foot in front of the other at Jesus command. Now he says, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'



Such faithfulness. such loyalty. They don't die with him, of course, or not yet but this is certainly the right response. In our lives there is a great deal we don't understand, our hopes and dreams often get thwarted, but if we go with Jesus, even if it is into the jaws of death, we will be walking in the light, whereas if we press ahead grabbing what we want we are bound to trip up.

'If', what a word of sorrow and longing. There is a lot of 'if' in all our griefs but we cannot change the past and no amount of guilt or blame makes any difference. Martha says 'if you had been here ...' Lazarus has been dead several days but if Jesus had come quickly, he might have been in time. Jesus assures her of the resurrection, but she assumes the future judgement and resurrection, and like us when a loved one dies. it seems a long way away and is not very comforting. But Jesus brings the future into the present. The new creation has come forward from the end of time into the middle of time.



Jesus says to Martha 'I am the resurrection and the life'. Resurrection isn't just a doctrine, it is not just a future fact, it's a person, and here he is standing on front of Martha. He is encouraging her to take that leap of faith. Did you hear the I AM at the beginning of that statement? Jesus is God. The same God who spoke to Moses, to Abraham, Ezekiel and all the prophets. Jesus is the Messiah, promised by the prophets, the one who has come into the world. God's own son the one in whom the living God is present.

For many of us there are still 'ifs'. We can bring our questions, our doubts to Jesus. Ask him. Take some time to listen to his reply. Be prepared to be surprised. His reply will be different for each of us but Jesus will meet your question with something totally new, something that will burst into the mess and grief with good news, with hope and new possibilities. Our God does not have formulas that he dishes out to solve problems, he does something new and perfect, individually designed for each of us.



Mary comes with the same question mark 'If you had been here...' and Jesus weeps. He shares our sorrows. Even though Jesus has no doubt what he will do, what his Father will do through him, there is no smugness. No rush to deny the grief. Rather the man of sorrows shares and bears it to the point of tears. Jesus knows that his death is coming. There is a line straight on from Jesus tears to his own death, he shares not only the grief but also the fate of the world.



See the parallel: Where have you laid him? And Mary Magdalene so soon after "I don't know where they have laid him'. He comes and sees and totally unconcerned about smell (he knows the body has not decomposed) and calls Lazarus. Lazarus comes out and the family is restored.

We cannot but connect the two deaths and resurrections. Jesus knew through those days of prayer that in raising Lazarus he was walking to his own death and trusted his Father for what would happen thereafter. Of course, there are differences, Lazarus came back to ordinary life and one day he died again but the journey Jesus would make was through death and out the other side into a new sort of life.



In our lives we find bits that pose us the same sort of questions that we find in this passage, things that should go together but we can't quite see how. We need to remember that in this story, and in our lives, the clue to it all is prayer and faith. If Jesus needed to spend so much time praying and waiting how much more will we. In these last weeks of Lent find some time to sit and talk to God and hear what he is speaking into your heart your life.