



PARISH OF CIRENCESTER
St John Baptist | Holy Trinity | St Lawrence

The Fifth Sunday of Lent
22nd March 2026

Collect

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.

or 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.

Ezekiel 37.1-14

37 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely."'

¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Romans 8.6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11.1-45

¹¹Now 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. 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.' ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ 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. ³² 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.' ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So 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 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ 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.' ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² 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.' ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ 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.'

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

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

BCP Sunday 22nd March - The Fifth Sunday in Lent [Passiontide begins]

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 94

This Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Evening Worship

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Eucharist

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist

Next week's CW readings for Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 21.1-11

BCP Sunday 29th March - The Sunday next before Easter - Palm Sunday

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 95

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!

Next Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist;

4p.m. Reflective Service to mark the beginning of Holy Week

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Eucharist

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist

Parish Forum open for enquiries Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri...10a.m. – Midday
Canon Graham is available every Monday 5.30 - 6.30p.m. in the Parish Forum

NOTICES FOR THE PARISH

Mothers' Union Corporate Communion is on **Thursday March 26th** at **noon** followed by this week's **Lent Lunch** at **St John Baptist** at 12.30pm continuing the focus on **Leaders in Education** with **Lois Smith** Head Teacher at Watermoor CofE.

Mothers' Union. Chill & Chatter is on **Thursday March 26th** at **7.30pm**. Please note the meeting will take place at the home of Amanda Wheatley, 55 Corinium Gate.

Mothers Union members are holding a **Cake Sale** on **Palm Sunday March 29th** in the **Parish Hall, Watermoor** after the 10am service. Donations of cakes will be most welcome. All monies raised will go to MU projects in this 150th Anniversary year.

As a parish we have been privileged to see **Revd Julian Wilson** grow into his ministry among us, first as **Assistant Curate** and then as **Associate Priest**. We would like to offer him a **farewell gift** in thanksgiving for his time and service here. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in an envelope marked **"Fr J"** and give it to the **Churchwardens** of your church. A **farewell gathering** will take place at **Saint Lawrence Church** on **Saturday 25 April at 4.00 p.m.** This will include a short service of **Evening Prayer**, followed by **light refreshments**.

The Flower Team at Holy Trinity would welcome help and donations of flowers to decorate our church for Easter. If you are able and willing please join us on **Saturday 4th April** from **9.30am**.

Easter Flowers in the Parish Church. Although have lost the "wash room" due to the building works, the Flower Guild hope to create a splendid display of seasonal spring flowers in church at Easter. If you would like to help towards the cost, please put a donation in an envelope marked "Easter flowers" and place it in the glass chest in the church by Thursday 2nd April. If you wish the flowers to be dedicated to a loved one, please add their name on the envelope. *Pam Barnes, Parish Church Flower Guild.*

From the Parish Calendar:

- Tue 24 Mar 1.15pm: Powells rehearsal – St John Baptist
- Wed 25 Mar 1.15pm: Powells rehearsal – St John Baptist
- Thu 26 Mar 10.15am: Watermoor School Easter Service – Holy Trinity
- Fri 27 Mar 10am: Powells Easter Service – St John Baptist
- Fri 27 Mar 10.30am: Funeral (Dorothy Probert) – Holy Trinity

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!