



Fifth Sunday of Lent

A Short Service of Prayer for those at home

We bind unto ourselves today,
the strong name of the Trinity.
We call out to the God who is our Creator,
our redeemer and the guiding Spirit within us all.
In weakness and in faith, we bind unto ourselves the power of God,
to hold and to lead, His eye to watch, his might to stay,
His ear to harken to our needs.

Light a candle
(please ensure this is done safely)

Pause for a moment of quiet

Bless your people O God,
and let the light of your love shine upon us always. AMEN

A Reading from the Bible

As night approached,
Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side,
while he dismissed the crowds.

Afterwards, he went up the mountain by himself to pray,
by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,
for the wind was against them.

Early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake.
But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified,
saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear.
But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said,
'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'
Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you,
command me to come to you on the water.'
Jesus said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat,
started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus.
But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened,
and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'
Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him,
'where is your faith, why did you doubt?'

Matthew 14 v 22-31

Pause for Thought

Throughout our lives, there will be moments when we are strong
and confident, sure of what to do.

At other moments in our lives there have, or there will be,
times when uncertainty or fears consume us.

In our bible reading today Jesus reaches out to Peter
in a moment of need.

In truth, our faith may be fragile too, it does not take much to crush us,
to lead us away from the light of hope to the darkness of despair.

At such moments, take heart.

(If you have a cross in the house, hold it in your hands)

Like us, Jesus knew fear; on the cross at Easter
when his own soul was troubled he managed to summon up
the courage and strength to say, 'Father, into your hands I commit my soul.'
Despite everything, Jesus prayed to God, trusted God totally.
When the world fails us as it did Jesus, his cry reminds us
that we are never alone, God is there with us.

May God's arm reach out to you in a moment of need,
May he be in times of trial our strength and our hope.
Peace be with you. AMEN

A Reflective Prayer on the God of 'all time.'

In the beginning, before time, before people,
before the world was begun,

GOD WAS
Here and now, among us, beside us,
GOD IS
In the future, when we have turned to dust
and all we know has found its fulfilment
GOD WILL BE
Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ.
GOD WAS,
GOD IS,
GOD WILL BE.
AMEN

Prayers for the World

Lord Jesus Christ,
we give thanks that your love
reaches further than we can imagine;
where faith has been shattered,
and dreams crushed
Let your unfailing love bring hope to the hopeless;
may all who call upon your name be,
renewed, remade and refreshed through your grace.

For the love of Christ, AMEN

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done;
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But Deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power and the glory,

For ever and ever.
AMEN

The Blessing

Saviour God,
may every breath we take be for your glory,
may every footstep follow the path of your Son.
strengthen and settle us in our faith;
that we may be a blessing to the world and to each other,
now and always. AMEN.