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Please put a note in the 'reference' box for online banking so treasurers know what the payment is for and/or from whom, if that is important. Thank you.

March 22nd, 2023

Dear friends of St Clement and St Nicolas,

Congratulations to the St. Nicholas team running last week's Lent Lunch in aid of Sanctuary Trust. Over £500 was received on the day or donated. Over forty people attended, significantly higher than previous weeks. Thanks to a certain rector's divinely inspired (and considered by purists to be not particularly Lenten) appeal for cake, the shortage of crackers and even bread by the end was not a problem as cheese and lemon drizzle cake go together surprisingly well.



This week the lunch will be to help relief work following extensive earthquake damage in Turkey and Syria. Come and support and enjoy excellent home made soups and cheerful company. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate just do a bank transfer ref '**LentEarthquake**'

Thank you to the Kidman family for picking buckets of daffodils for Mothering Sunday. All were distributed at the two services and every Real Easter Egg was sold as well. There are ten thousand or more daffodils flowering in the Meadow.

Please feel free to pick huge bunches and give away, put on graves or bring some Spring colour to your home.

We hope you are keeping well.

David

The clocks change in the early hours of Sunday March 26th – please don't forget to change them and put them forward by 1 hour.

CA 379

Lead us, heav'nly Father, lead us
O'er the worlds tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing ev'ry blessing
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness thou dost know,
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
Through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heav'nly joy,
Love with ev'ry passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

The Greeting The Lord be with you. and also with you.

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 Penitence Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you. Pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, Heav'nly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your

glory. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect for the fifth Sunday of Lent: 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. **Amen**

The Readings:

The First Reading is taken from Ezekiel, Chapter 37, beginning to read at the first verse (Ezekiel 37 1- 14)

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 back and forth 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^[a] 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.'"

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

THE GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 140

**All ye who seek for sure relief
In trouble and distress,
Whatever sorrow vex the mind,
Or guilt the soul oppress.**

**Jesus, who gave himself for you
Upon the cross to die,
Opens to you his sacred heart:
O to that heart draw nigh.**

**Ye hear how kindly he invites;
Ye hear his words so blest;
All ye that labour come to me,
And I will give you rest.**

**O Jesus, joy of saints on high,
Thou hope of sinners here,
Attracted by those loving words
To thee we lift our prayer.**

**Wash thou our wounds in that dear blood
Which from thy heart doth flow
A new and contrite heart on all
Who cry to thee bestow.**

The Gospel Reading:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (John 11 1-45)

Glory to you, O Lord

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, 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 sick."

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness 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 sick, 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 daytime 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^[a]) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus 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^[b] 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?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead 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 odor, 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 around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

The Plot to Kill Jesus ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

Reflection: Tracy There is a tradition that Lazarus went to Cyprus and was made a bishop by Paul. And that Lazarus was a sullen man who hardly ever smiled and laughed only once. Perhaps he felt guilty? Only after Lazarus makes an entry into the gospel does the pressure on Jesus intensify. The raising of Lazarus inspires many to put their faith in Jesus and eye witnesses are there to accompany Jesus into Jerusalem to encourage many more to put their trust in him. A few verses on from our reading is 'from that day on they (the Pharisees) plotted to take his life'. Did Lazarus feel responsible for Jesus' death? May be that accounted for Lazarus' sullen nature? Not a good look for a Bishop! If Lazarus felt in some way responsible he should not have done. The Jesus that walks through the gospel of John is deeply divine and in command. He is also deeply human. Only in John's gospel do we have the words 'Jesus wept' and a reference to Jesus being deeply moved or 'greatly agitated'. I think that is a good description of the grief that comes when we lose someone we love. In Jesus' case he came to do something about that so that 'whoever lives and believes in Jesus will never die'. This is not only an invitation to life after death but for today, for Jesus is with us now to lead us into a richer, fuller way of being.

The Creed: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us**

and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession: We sit or kneel Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Jesus, our resurrection and our life, breathe into your Church and make it a holy dwelling place for you. As we approach Holy Week help us to enter afresh into the stories we know so well and breathe new life into our understanding.

Jesus, look with compassion on your world. Transform the dry bones of power and greed so that they dance with joy and tenderness. Bring peace to people living with war and violence. Rebuild and restore lives that have been laid to ruin by evil men and natural disasters.

Jesus, bring healing to our institutions that are foundering and in need of new life. Breathe your Spirit into governments, healthcare providers, schools and policing. Set our feet on paths that bring hope.

Jesus, be with all who are struggling in body or mind. Be their strength and their delight. ***Spend a little time praying for people that you know.***

Jesus, our resurrection and our life, you restore life where it has been lost. We place our loved ones that have died into your life-giving hands and ask that you bring comfort to the bereaved. We place ourselves in your hands too trusting in your life-giving Spirit and for the hope that we have in you for eternal life.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace We stand to share the Peace: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

All: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Preparation of the Table:

THE OFFERTORY HYMN (when the offertory would have been taken)

CA 374

**Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched blind,
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down,
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove
Here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

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.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean. This is his story. **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest**

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is his story **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father for the food; he took bread; gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all. Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me. This is our story: **This is our song; Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world. This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

The Lord's Prayer: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us **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.**

Breaking of the Bread We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Prayer before the Distribution:

We do not presume to come to this 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 our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayers after Communion We stand; 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. Amen

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Dismissal: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

THE FINAL HYMN CA 104

**Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King.
Lord of heav'n, our lives sustaining,
Hear us as we sing:**

***Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, th'eternal name.***

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
Pow'r and majesty concealing
By your humble birth: (refrain)**

**Suff'ring servant, scorned, ill-treated,
Victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated,
Sinners justified: (refrain)**

**Priestly King, enthroned for ever
High in heav'n above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
Stifle hymns of love: (refrain)**

**So our hearts and voices raising
Through the ages long,
Ceaselessly upon you gazing,
This shall be our song.**

***Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, th'eternal name***

The Grace: May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**