

LENT 5

29 March 2020

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 11:1-45

God of all time and every place be present now with us in our time and place, struggling in anguish and fear, struggling to find meaning and purpose through our faith as so many others have before us.

Be with us as always in Jesus, in life and in death for there are no boundaries to your love. As the psalmist of old affirms

Thou, Lord, my allotted portion, Thou my cup, Thou dost enlarge my boundaries (Psalm 16:5) and in the words of last Sunday's Hymn 'Christ be our light' as we wait in our darkness.

Reflection

We are not used to times such as these when control of our world and our way of life is taken out of our hands. All our taken for granted assumptions about our sophisticated world are now shaken as we realise that we are restricted by our quarantine to virtually biblical times. Indeed those of biblical times were used to limitations by plague and pestilence as the Ezekiel passage reminds us. And they found hope nevertheless. "Man, can these bones live.... I will put my spirit into you and you shall live" (Ezekiel 37:3,14). What faith in God means is that God is always enlarging our boundaries when we see life as a daunting challenge. One of the greatest of the Psalms is indeed a clarion affirmation of this. Psalm 139:7-12

Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence?

[8] If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!



[9] If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

[10] even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me.

[11] If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light about me be night,"

[12] even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

Read the whole Psalm for yourself. And read the Gospel for today which points forward to the central message of our faith enshrined in Easter itself for which we have been preparing throughout Lent.

The trials and tribulations of our time will come to an end. There is light at the end of the tunnel. We as the people of faith in Christ should be at the forefront affirming this.

Hymn 779

'May the feet of God walk with you and his hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you and his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you and his breath give you life.

May the child of God grow in you and his love bring you home.'

Rev Graeme Kerr