

Collect and Readings for Sunday 22 March 2026

Collect for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

God in Trinity, Creator, Saviour, Giver of life and truth, reveal the possibilities within us, that we may attain to the fullness of our humanity. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. **Amen.**

*E te Atua Tokotoru, Te Kaihanga, Te Kaiwhakaora, Te Kaihōmai i te oranga me te pono, whakaaria mai ngā pūmanawa kei roto i tēnei, i tēnei o mātou, kia tae atu ai mātou ki te puāwaitanga o te tangata. Whakarongo ki tēnei īnoi i runga i tōu aroha. **Āmine.***

Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel 37:1-14

37 The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. ²He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

³He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?" I said, "Lord God, only you know."

⁴He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord's word! ⁵The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. ⁶I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord."

⁷I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. ⁸When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

⁹He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live."

¹⁰I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

¹¹ He said to me, “Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.’ ¹² So now, prophesy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I’m opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel’s fertile land. ¹³ You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. ¹⁴ I will put my breath^[a] in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I’ve spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says.”

Epistle Reading – Romans 8: 6-11

⁶ The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. ⁷ So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn’t submit to God’s Law, because it can’t. ⁸ People who are self-centred aren’t able to please God.

⁹ But you aren’t self-centred. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God’s Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn’t have the Spirit of Christ, they don’t belong to him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God’s righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. ¹¹ If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

Gospel Reading - John 11:1-45

Lazarus is ill

11 A certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (² This was the Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, “Lord, the one whom you love is ill.”

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, “This illness isn’t fatal. It’s for the glory of God so that God’s Son can be glorified through it.” ⁵ Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. ⁶ When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, ⁷ he said to his disciples, “Let’s return to Judea again.”

⁸The disciples replied, “Rabbi, the Jewish opposition wants to stone you, but you want to go back?”

⁹Jesus answered, “Aren’t there twelve hours in the day? Whoever walks in the day doesn’t stumble because they see the light of the world. ¹⁰But whoever walks in the night does stumble because the light isn’t in them.”

¹¹He continued, “Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up.”

¹²The disciples said, “Lord, if he’s sleeping, he will get well.” ¹³They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus had spoken about Lazarus’ death.

¹⁴Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died. ¹⁵For your sakes, I’m glad I wasn’t there so that you can believe. Let’s go to him.”

¹⁶Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other disciples, “Let us go too so that we may die with Jesus.”

Jesus with Martha and Mary

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁹Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother’s death. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. ²²Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you.”

²³Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴Martha replied, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.”

²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. ²⁶Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷She replied, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God’s Son, the one who is coming into the world.”

²⁸ After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, “The teacher is here and he’s calling for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. ³⁰ He hadn’t entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb.

³² When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. ³⁴ He asked, “Where have you laid him?”

They replied, “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵ Jesus began to cry. ³⁶ The Jews said, “See how much he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

Jesus at Lazarus’ tomb

³⁸ Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Remove the stone.”

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, “Lord, the smell will be awful! He’s been dead four days.”

⁴⁰ Jesus replied, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?” ⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Therefore, many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

[Translation: Common English Bible (CEB)]

Hymns for Sunday 22 March 2026

Opening Chant:

[Jesus, Remember Me](#)

*Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your
kingdom:*

*Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your
kingdom:*

Response during Confession:

[E te Ariki](#)

(Call) E te ariki, kia aroha mai

(All) E te ariki, kia aroha mai

(Call) E te Karaiti, Kia Aoha Mai

(All) E te Karaiti, Kia Aoha Mai

(Call) E te ariki, kia aroha mai

(All) E te ariki, kia aroha mai

Words: liturgical. Music by Ian Render. Published in
"Faith Forever Singing", (c) NZ Hymnbook Trust, 2000.

Gradual Hymn

[Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart](#)

Chorus

*Give thanks with a
grateful heart Give
thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because
He's given Jesus Christ
His Son*

Verse

And now let the weak say I am
strong Let the poor say

I am rich

Because of what the Lord has
done for us (x2)

Ending

Give thanks...

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[Te Inoi a te Ariki \(The Lord's Prayer\)](#)

(see service sheet)

Offertory Hymn:

[Here Is Bread, Here Is Wine](#)

Verse 1

Here is bread here is wine
Christ is with us He is with us
Break the bread drink the wine
Christ is with us here

Verse 2

Here is grace here is peace
Christ is with us He is with us
Know His grace find His peace
Feast on Jesus here

Chorus

*In this bread there is healing
In this cup there's life forever
In this moment by the Spirit
Christ is with us here*

Verse 3

Here we are joined in one
Christ is with us He is with us
We'll proclaim 'til He comes
Jesus crucified
Chorus...

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During Communion:
[O Lord Hear My Prayer](#)

Closing Hymn:
[I am the Bread of Life](#)

Verse 1

I am the Bread of life,
You who comes to Me
shall not hunger,
And who believe in Me shall not thirst.
No one can come to Me
Unless the Father draws them.

Chorus:

*And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day.*

Verse 2

The bread that I will give
Is My flesh for the life of the world,
And if you eat of this bread,
You shall live for ever,
You shall live for ever. **Chorus**

Verse 3:

Unless you eat
Of the flesh of the Son of Man
And drink of His blood,
And drink of His blood,
You shall not have life within you.
Chorus

Verse 4:

I am the Resurrection,
I am the Life,
If you believe in Me
Even though you die,
You shall live for ever. **Chorus**

Verse 5:

Yes, Lord, I believe
That You are the Christ,
The Son of God
Who has come
Into the world. **Chorus**

"I Am the Bread of Life", by Suzanne Toolan
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