



22 March 2026

Lent 5

Welcome to
St Barnabas' in Pound Hill and St
Nicholas' in Worth.

This sheet details the readings in today's
services as well as notices for everyone.

SERVICES TODAY

Certain services are available online
(live or recorded)

08:15 Said Eucharist (BCP) St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher Revd Gordon Parry

10:00 Sung Eucharist St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher Fr Francis Pole

10:00 Sung Eucharist St Nicholas'
Celebrant Fr Michael Boag
Preacher Deborah Cowie

Please try our QR code to
donate to Worth Parish.
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payment to: Parish of Worth Pound Hill &
Maidenbower, Sort Code 40-18-22, Account
61223372. If you need help, call the Office.

At the heart of today's Gospel is Jesus' declaration to Martha: "*I am the resurrection and the life.*" These words reveal not only what Jesus can do, but who he is.

When Lazarus takes ill, his sisters Martha and Mary send word to Jesus. By the time Jesus reaches Bethany Lazarus has been dead four days. It seems like there is no hope, but Jesus is about to show that God's timing and power go beyond human understanding.

Martha meets Jesus with faith and sorrow: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus responds with a promise—Lazarus will rise again. Martha thinks of the future resurrection at the last day, but Jesus brings the truth closer: "*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.*"

Resurrection is not just something that will happen someday; it is found in Jesus himself. He holds authority over death, and he gives eternal life to those who believe.

At the tomb, Jesus weeps, showing his compassion for human suffering. Then he calls, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man emerges from the grave, demonstrating that Jesus has power over death itself.

There is always hope. Death, grief, and loss are real, but they do not have the final word. Jesus does. Because he is the resurrection and the life, those who trust in him have a living hope that goes beyond the grave.

Deborah

Collect

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.

Amen

Reading *Ezekiel 37: 1-14*

The word of the Lord came to me: You, O mortal, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel: An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. Now the end is upon you, I will let loose my anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, I will punish you for all your abominations. My eye will not spare you, I will have no pity. I will punish you for your ways, while your abominations are among you. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. Thus says the Lord God: Disaster after disaster! See, it comes. An end has come, the end has come. It has awakened against you; see, it comes! Your doom has come to you, O inhabitant of the land. The time has come, the day is near— of tumult, not of revelling on the mountains. Soon now I will pour out my wrath upon you; I will spend my anger against you. I will judge you according to your ways, and punish you for all your abominations. My eye will not spare; I will have no pity. I will punish you according to your ways, while your abominations are among you. Then you shall know that it is I the Lord who strike. See, the day! See, it comes! Your doom has gone out. The rod has blossomed, pride has budded. Violence has grown into a rod of wickedness. None of them shall remain, not their abundance, not their wealth; no pre-eminence among them. The time has come, the day draws near; let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn, for wrath is upon all their multitude. For the sellers shall not return to what has been sold as long as they remain alive. For the vision concerns all their multitude; it shall not be revoked. Because of their iniquity, they cannot maintain their lives. They have blown the horn and made everything ready; but no one goes to battle, for my wrath is upon all their multitude.

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." Therefore prophesy, 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I

open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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.'

Reading *Romans 8: 6-11* To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But 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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If 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.



Gospel *John 11. 1-45* Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the

sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But 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." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus 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. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them. "After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to

him. "Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." 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." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 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. 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." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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 four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 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." 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 **Amen**

Maundy Thursday,

2 April, 6pm, Supper and Eucharist at St Barnabas'. Please sign the list at St Barnabas if you are attending this service (for catering purposes), by Sunday 29 March.

Mothers' Union

meets in St Barnabas' on **26 Mar** at 16:00.
We will be praying and learning a little bit about our Link Branches around the world.

Friday Lunches

The next lunch will be on **10 Apr**. Please book your place for the 10 Apr with the Office or the Café by **Wed 8 Apr**. We are still in need of some more cooks, so do let us know if you can help out (help and advice given).

Parish Prayer Group

Please note the venue change this week to the Parish Prayer Group who will meet on **Wed 25 Mar** at **14.30** at St Barnabas'. Join us to pray for our Parish, our clergy, our outreach and the congregations.

Scrabble and Cake

Wed 25 Mar, St Barnabas' Café, 14:00-16:00. Come and enjoy games, refreshments and company. £4, in aid of St Barnabas' Refurbishment. All welcome

