

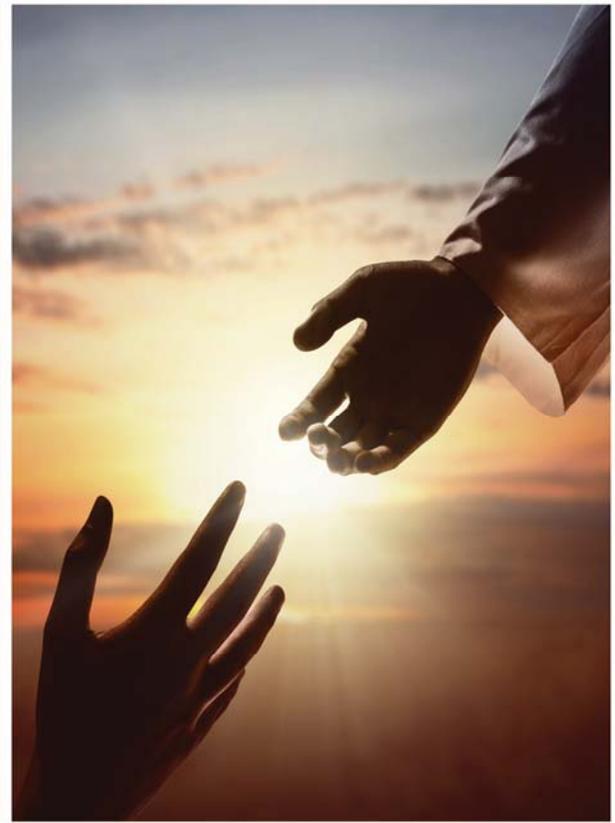
Fifth

Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2020

Jesus said,
"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me,
even if they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and
believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26



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St. Bridget Catholic Church

100 Highway 311 - Office 2076 W Main St - Schriever, LA

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the Lord GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. Then you shall know I am the LORD, O my people! (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

Psalm — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130).

Second Reading -If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Very Rev. Simon Peter Engurait, VG

Pastor

Deacon Stephen Brunet

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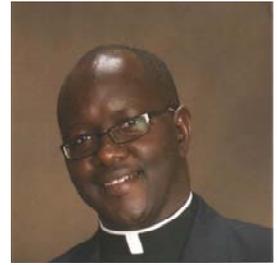
Mass Schedule

**In light of the Coronavirus Pandemic
Masses are being live streamed on our
parish facebook ([facebook.com/StBridget](https://www.facebook.com/StBridget))
as follows:**

- Daily Mass Monday to Saturday at 8:30 am

- Sunday Mass at 10:00 am

The Church is open for private prayer 7am-7pm



My Dear St Bridget Family,
The Fifth Sunday of Lent finds us in the midst of this unprecedented pandemic of our life-time, ***the Coronavirus***. In the last two weeks, we and the whole world has been plunged into confusion, panic and uncertainty about the future as the infection rate and death toll numbers from this virus increase day by day. This coronavirus has altered life as we know it. Our plans have been shattered.

My dear brothers and sisters, with quarantines, stay-home orders, closing of schools, restaurants, movie theaters etc., this pandemic has brought us to the grim reality that we are not in total control of our lives, our environments and our destiny. If we are honest with ourselves and if we face the reality of this pandemic we come to a natural realization that there are other forces beyond our control that can change the path we thought we were firmly grounded on.

In my native country Uganda, some who in the past, in the midst of similar crisis at a local or national level always opted to flee the country for other safer destinations are finding themselves incapacitated as all flights in and out of the country have been cancelled and all boarders closed! Their financial and other resources are of no help! The question then is: **“Does God have an answer for us?”** And the Good News is that the answer is **YES!**

The readings this Sunday have the theme of **“Hope in Hopeless Situations”**. All the three readings focus on **Hope**, in the face of death with the promise of the resurrection to newness of life. In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel speaks Hope to the people of Israel who are in desolate exile. They are like lifeless dry bones strewn about a valley. But the Hope is that the bones will soon be reassembled and re-clothed with flesh by the power of God. In the second reading, for us who believe St Paul reminds us that, the God who raised Jesus from the dead, will raise us also from the grip of death.

And in the gospel reading, we have the famous account of Lazarus being raised from death. Allow me delve more into this famous account and draw some lessons for us in our current circumstances

All of us have and need friends. During His life on earth, Jesus Christ our Lord and savior had special friends in Bethany- Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha. Naturally, when Lazarus fell sick his sisters called on Jesus for help saying: **“Lord the one you love is sick.”** Surprisingly, Jesus on receiving this message or this prayer did not stop whatever He was doing to go to attend to Lazarus. He **‘intentionally’** delayed and in the delay, Lazarus died! Can you imagine with me what was going on in the minds of Mary, Martha and their relatives as right in front of their eyes their brother was dying and Jesus whom they knew could save him was nowhere to be seen!

In the midst of this pandemic, we can certainly identify with the predicament of these two friends of Jesus (Martha and Mary). With the infection and death rate going up by day we may be tempted to feel like we are abandoned by God, by Jesus. We may be tempted to think that our prayers are not reaching God. We can't help thinking that if God really loved us, He wouldn't have allowed this pandemic to happen.

The faith of the sisters in all this should be a source of inspiration for us. When Jesus eventually came, Martha meets Him first and says to Him: **“If you had been Here, our brother would not have died.”** In other words, she knew that to have Jesus is to have life. In response Jesus takes her faith to even a higher level by stating that; **“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even if they die, will live”**. In other words, He tells her that, **it will be Okay!** And then He asks her; **‘Do you believe this?’** The same question is posed to us in the midst of this crisis.

Do you believe that it will be okay?

My dear brothers and sisters right at the onset of the crisis of the illness of Lazarus, Jesus pointed out that it would end up **‘for the glory of God’**. In the same vein, I believe that this pandemic we face will end in the glorification of God. That glorification is in the reminder to us and indeed to all humanity that there is a power beyond our human power. That power is God. A reminder to us that our ultimate help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth (Psalm 124:8). A reminder to us of our utter dependence upon God. A reminder to us that without God, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Jesus is our friend, He is with us in the midst of this pandemic, just as He was with Martha and Mary in the midst of the crisis in their family even when He appeared to delay. Let us ever more, turn to Him. If we had slackened in our relationship with and belief in Him, may this be an opportunity for us to repent and return to Him.

Thanks and God bless, Fr Simon Peter

Pope Francis on facing challenges of the coronavirus pandemic

By Vatican News

"I asked the Lord to stop the epidemic: 'Lord, stop it with your hand'. That is what I prayed for". Pope Francis revealed the content of his prayer in an interview with Italian journalist, Paolo Rodari, published in Wednesday's edition of "La Repubblica" newspaper. Pope Francis made this prayer when he visited the Roman churches of Saints Mary Major and Marcello on the Via del Corso last Sunday.

In the interview, Pope Francis offers advice about how to face the daily challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic: "We need to rediscover the concreteness of small things, the small acts of kindness shown to those who are close to us, family, friends. We need to realize that our treasure lies in small things. There are tiny gestures that sometimes get lost in the routine of everyday life, gestures of tenderness, affection, compassion, that are nevertheless decisive, important", he says. The Pope gives the examples of sharing "a hot plate of food, a caress, a hug, a phone call... These are familiar, attentive gestures regarding everyday details that make life meaningful, and create communion and communication amongst us".

Pope Francis observes that many times communication is only "virtual". "Instead we should discover a new closeness", he says. "Real relationships made of attentiveness and patience". The Pope describes how some families eat together at home in silence – not because they are listening to one another, but because "the parents are watching television while they eat, and their children are on their mobile phones". Pope Francis describes this kind of family as "monks isolated from one another". There is no communication here, he says. "Instead, listening to one another is important because we understand one another's needs, struggles, desires". "There is a language made of concrete gestures that must be safeguarded", continues the Pope. The suffering people are enduring at this time should make us open to this language.

In the interview, Pope Francis expresses his appreciation for healthcare personnel and volunteers. He thanks those who dedicate themselves to helping others in this way, and describes them as "an example" of the concreteness of small acts of kindness. The Pope invites "everyone to be close to those who have lost loved ones, to try to accompany them in every way possible". We must all be dedicated to consoling others, he adds. Pope Francis mentions that he was particularly struck by an article he read recently. In it, the author indicates how "our behavior always affects others' lives". The example cited was that of how not paying our taxes, leads to lack of healthcare services.

Finally, Pope Francis invites everyone to hope — even those who do not believe. "We are all children of God, and He watches over us", says the Pope. "Even those who have not yet met God, those who do not have the gift of faith, can find their way through the good things that they believe in. They can find strength in their love for their children, their family, their brothers and sisters. Someone might say: 'I cannot pray because I do not believe'. But at the same time", concludes Pope Francis, "we can believe in the love of the people we have around us, and there we can find hope".



The Sanctuary Light memory of:
March 29-April 4
 Annette Richard (B) Marlene and Ronnie
April 5-11
 Tristan Ables by Ma Maw and family
 John C. Theriot by Gus Theriot

DA=Death Anniv.
 B= Birthday
 WA=Wedding Anniv.



March 28 4:00 pm
 Jimmy Cavalier by Brenda and family
 Paul Thibodaux by Marilyn Thibodaux
March 29 8:30 am
 Ethel Tabor
March 29 10:30 am
 Louis Trosclair Jr. by family
 Lelia Landry (B) by Burnelle & Margaret Landry

April 4 4:00 pm
 Tristan Ables by Ma Maw and family
 Lee Roy Breaux by Ronnie & Betty Thomas & fly
 Agnes & Ernest Breaux by family and friends
April 5 8:30 am
 Robert Domangue by Ed & Elaine Richard
 Jimmy Coupel by Diana and family
 James Brunet (B) by Olin family
 John C. Theriot (B) by Gus Theriot
April 5 10:30 am
 Louis Trosclair Jr. By family

March 22, 2020 **Weekly Offering**
 Envelopes \$ 550.00
 Your Church support can be mailed or
 dropped off at the office.
Thank you for your generosity.

Online Giving
Sure – Safe – Secure
 Please consider online giving.
 Your donation is safe, secure, and guaranteed. Online giving is a way to ensure that St. Bridget receives your donation even when you're out of town or forget your envelope. Online giving donors can receive financial statements for income tax purposes at the end of the calendar year or whenever necessary. Donations can be recurring (weekly or monthly) or one time. For more information visit our secure website at www.stbridget-htdioocese.org or call the Office at (985) 446-6801.

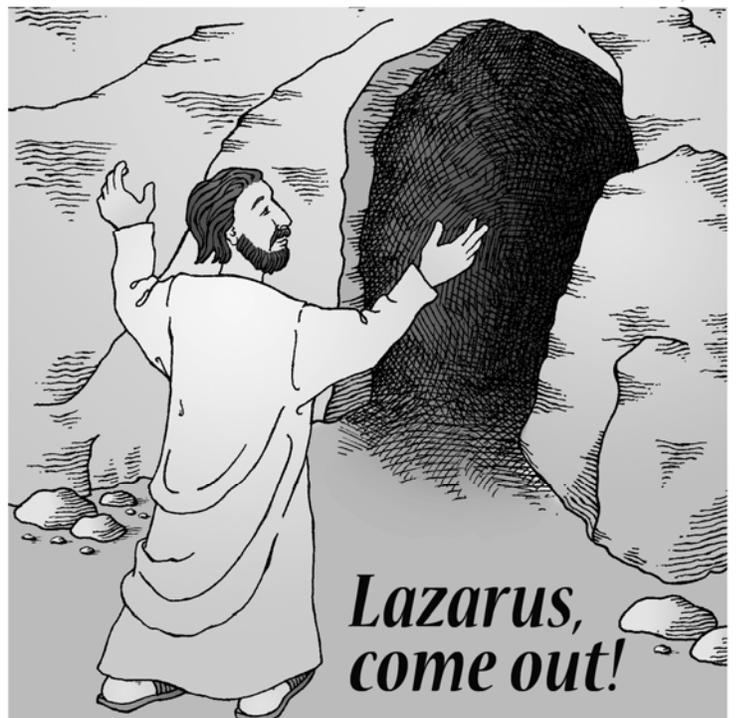
Being a Partner in Hope

Please know that Father Simon Peter is grateful for the response that St. Bridget parish has shown to the 2020 annual Bishop's Appeal. Thus far our parish has reached 51% of our parish appeal goal. The appeal is something that our parish supports and Father would like to see the support from our parishioners continue to grow. Your gifts are supporting our 13 seminarians, caring for our 17 retired priests, youth formation and religious education, and Catholic education. Vital ministries to our diocese that support each of us.

On behalf of Bishop Fabre, he would like to thank all who have made their commitment and strongly encourages all of our parishioners to participate in such a worthy cause. If you have not yet made your commitment and would still like to do so, there is still time as you can return your commitment card in the offertory, or simply mail it to the diocese in the provided envelope, or you may also visit www.htdioocese.org/bishopsappeal to make your gift online.

If you would like more information about the 2020 Appeal, please contact the Annual Bishop's Appeal Office at 985-850-3122. or email aportier@htdioocese.org.

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & COUNSELING

Monday to Friday: 5:00—6:00 pm
Saturday 4:30—6:00 pm
Sunday 5:00—6:00 pm

OTHER SERVICES

Way of the Cross: lived streamed on facebook on Friday at 6:00 pm

Rosary: Saturday from 4:00-4:30 pm

Catholic Social Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family.

As Jesus approaches the tomb of his friend Lazarus, we are told, “Jesus wept.” Today we have so many deaths to weep over.

- deaths from ethnic and racial fighting in countless places.
- deaths of those without adequate medical care.
- deaths of children who do not get adequate nutrition.
- deaths of people who die alone and feel unloved.
- deaths from substance abuse.

Jesus says to Martha: “I am the resurrection and the life.” Our contemporary world needs a God that will address all this “death” with a vision of resurrection and life:

- a vision of reconciliation and nonviolence
- a vision of a world of justice for all where the life of every human person is treated with dignity and respect
- a vision that does not forget those on the margins
- a vision that respects human rights
- a vision that does not forget women and children
- a vision that promotes life before money and power and pride.

Jesus says: “Lazarus, come out.” Jesus says to those around him: “Untie him and let him go.” Our contemporary world needs a confident voice that will invite us out of our tombs and into freedom - freedom from the culture of violence, death, racism, discrimination, revenge, and blindness – freedom to respond to the needs of others and let go of everything that keeps us from being fully alive.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

In the Foot Steps of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Fr Simon Peter has planned a **10 Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, August 17-26, 2020** for St Bridget Parish. The full package price including airfare from New Orleans is **\$ 3,695** (double occupancy). Final Payment Deadline is April 30, 2020.

To enroll online, please go to:

www.petersway.com/9700.html **OR** pick up enrollment forms from the parish office.

In response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux is offering an Outreach Line (formerly known as the Child Protection Contact Line). The Outreach Line is an effort to continue the diocesan commitment to support healing for people who have been hurt or sexually abused recently or in the past by clergy, religious or other employees of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Outreach Line operates from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. Monday through Friday. A trained mental health professional responds to the line. Individuals are offered additional assistance if requested. Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Outreach Line Telephone numbers (985) 873-0026 or (985) 850-3172

Prayer Line

If you or someone needs to be added to the prayer line, call Nina Richard at 446-1206 or the rectory at 446-6801. In the charity of your prayers, please pray for the sick, elderly, and homebound. Please pray for: Elaine Ables, Susan Arceneaux, Heidi Ardoin, Jacob Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Chad Barrileaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Judith Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Rosemary Besson, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Pat Billiot, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Cody Bourgeois, Emile "Jay" Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Troy & Joan Bourgeois, Wade Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Beau Brassette, Dustin Brassette, Mark Brassette, Emma Del Broussard, Richard Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Bessie Chiasson, Randy Chiasson, Brad Clement, Bryce Comeaux, Jay & Tiffany Conner, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Alan Dunbar, Linda Ekiss, Avery "Brother" and Sonja Fonseca, Darin Fonz, Robin Ford, Marie Fournier, Alisa Frederick, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Bryan Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Vergie Gros, Kendra Guillot, Elaine Chauvin Hebert, Joy Hebert, Katie Hebert, Jerrell Hebert, Sr., Jessie Hoffpauir, Samara Holland, Kristen Koppel, Jackson LaFleur, Mona Lambert, Elmay Landry, Judie Landry, Joyce Landry, Craig Landry, Mark Landry, Barbara Nell Lapeyrouse, Allie LeBlanc, Evelyn Leger, Tammy Babin Loney, Tim Long, Payton Martin, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Eric Olivieri, Robert Oncale, Annie Ordoyne, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Pennison, Lisa Pennison, Sally Pertuit, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Kip Pierce, Sharon Prejean, Ed Raidl, Kerri Reynolds, Bryce Richard, Ella Richard, Gladys Richard, Lorita Rodrigue, Susan Rodrigue, Cynthia Rogers, Danielle Samanie, Chester Sanchez, Karla Saunier, Kathy Savoie, Earline Simoneaux, Penny Simmons, Brenda Sonier, Deacon Ryan Stawaizz, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templet, Pierre & Mary Theriot, Cammie Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Ronnie Thomas, Chris Touns, Joyce Touns, Ricky Turner, Suzanne Usey, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Anna Wooten. *Please notify the office when name can be removed.*

Catholic Daughters Corner



All
en-
gaged
your

Catholic wom-
are encour-
to join
sisters in Christ .

Postponed

All Catholic women (age 18 and above) are invited to join the organization to grow in faith, friendship, and service to community. Dues (\$25 annually) are now due. Dues can be paid at the meeting or

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62];
Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56;
Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13;
Jn 11:45-56
Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession);
Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24;
Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

CORONAVIRUS HELPFUL RESOURCES

Diocesan Website: htdiocese.org (News, Videos, Prayers and More)
St Bridget Website (stbridget-htdiocese.org)
and facebook (facebook.com/stbridget) for live steam events.

GIVE GLORY TO GOD

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, just before we begin to enter Holy Week, we are summoned to Bethany. If we had been friends of Mary, Lazarus, and Martha, and found out that Lazarus was gravely ill, we probably would have dropped everything to be with them. This was what was so surprising about the behavior of Jesus. Although he was their close friend, he chose to stay away, that God's glory would be manifested. This is a persistent theme in John's Gospel. Right to the very end, Jesus' works were meant to give glory to the Father. As our Lenten journey reaches a crescendo, let us be mindful that, as people who have "put on Christ" in baptism, we are also called, by our attitudes and actions, to give glory to God.

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INSPIRATION FROM ST PAUL

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:6-7)

This is actually a command, but one that's difficult to obey, particularly when faced with a crisis. We tend to be anxious about everything, but often don't address it in prayer. We should put all our anxieties in Jesus' hands. Jesus said we can go to Him and He will give us rest (Matt 11:28-30), so just put everything in His hands by putting "*everything in prayer.*"

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It has long been a Catholic understanding and practice that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

(As you follow the Mass on facebook, this is the prayer to pray at the time for Holy Communion)

I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

By St Alphonsus Liguori

LIFE

A well-spent life is the only passport to heaven.
—Pope Leo XIII

PRAYER

The more you devote yourself in prayer the more you will do well in your work.
—St. John Baptist de la Salle

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Patroness of the Americas

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

