

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Gathering of March 22 – March 28



## PRAYER SHEET

### I. Gathering and Introductions

### II. Opening Prayer

O God of eternal life, whose glory is the human person fully alive, in the tears that Jesus shed for Lazarus his friend we see the living incarnation of your tenderness and compassion.

Graciously behold the distress of your church, which mourns and prays as a mother for her children whose sins have brought them death. By the power of your Spirit, call them back to life, unbind them and let them go free.

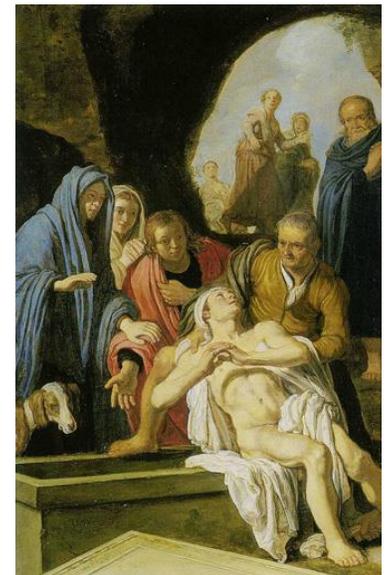
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

### III. Gospel Reading

### IV. Video Reflection: Parish Priests

### V. Discussion Questions: Many questions are offered as suggestions for discussion. Please pick and choose the questions that best suit your group, but be sure to end with the last two questions, k and l.

- a. Fr. Ed and Fr. Joshua have talked about the importance of believing that Jesus wants to meet us in prayer with us coming “just as we are.” Discuss with each other how a person might go about praying in that way: What would be the attitude in the person’s heart, or what might their words in prayer be?
- b. Martha and Mary doubted that Jesus would be there for them. Can you describe a time when someone close to you doubted that you would be there for them and what came of that situation? Have you ever doubted that Jesus would be there for you?
- c. How would you ask God to help you “unbury” an issue in your life that you have been trying avoid?
- d. In Chapter 5 of “A Quiet Place,” we are reminded that Sunday Mass is an anchor to our spiritual life and our prayer life. How can we increase our experience of God in the Mass?



- e. On page 64 of “A Quiet Place,” the author describes “uniting our own hearts and minds to the Liturgy of the Eucharist, therefore, more fully joining our lives to Christ’s.” One way that we are able to unite our lives to Christ is by making our heartfelt intentions part of our offering at Mass. What are some ways that you can make a conscious effort to include your intentions at Mass when you attend?
- f. Fr. Ed mentioned one of his favorite prayers, the Suscipe Prayer of St. Ignatius. Share a prayer that you have consistently prayed in your life – as simple or as extravagant as it may be.
- g. On page 71 of “A Quiet Place,” the author describes the common experience of distractions in prayer. What do you do when distractions arise in your prayer?
- h. What are other common obstacles to prayer in your life?
- i. On pages 74-76 of “A Quiet Place,” the author offers ideas for structure in your time of prayer. Which of his ideas attract you as ways for increasing prayer in your life?
- j. On pages 76-78 of “A Quiet Place,” three shortcuts were listed to help our growth in prayer. What are some of your favorite: pieces of spiritual reading? of ways to build silence into your life? of ways to reconnect with nature?
- k. What is one commitment that you can make that will help you to grow in your prayer life?
- l. We have talked about many different kinds of prayer. How has your interest in prayer changed over these last three weeks of reading and discussion?

## VI. Closing Prayer

O Communion of Love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, embrace us as your children in this family of faith. Welcome us to a place at your table in the wedding feast of heaven.

O Father of Mercy, forgive us as we forgive. Reconcile us as one Body in Christ and make us instruments of your Peace.

O Spirit of Fire and Light, send us as your witnesses in daily life. Through our prayer, faith, and good works may we become welcoming doorways, inviting others to enter and encounter your Holy Communion of Love.

We make this prayer, Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and through Christ our Lord. Amen.

