

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

YHWH says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the land of Israel. And you will know that I am YHWH, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people.

And I will put my breath in you, and you will live. And I will resettle you on your own soil, and you will know that I, YHWH, have said and done this — it is YHWH who speaks.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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. Those who do not have the Spirit of Christ do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then though the body is

dead because of sin, the Spirit lives because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then the One who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life also through the Spirit dwelling in you.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

or

Glory to You, Word of God, Jesus Christ, Savior!

*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Savior:
they who believe in me will not die forever.*

Praise to You, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

There was a certain man named Lazarus, who was sick. He and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were from the village of Bethany. Mary was the one who had anointed the feet of Jesus with perfume and dried his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. The sisters sent this message to Jesus: “Rabbi, the one you love is sick.”

When Jesus heard this, he said, “This sickness will not end in death; it is happening for God’s glory, so that God’s Only Begotten may be glorified because of it.”

Jesus loved these three very much. Yet even after hearing that Lazarus was sick, he remained where he was staying for two more days. Finally he said to the disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

They protested, “Rabbi, it was only recently that they tried to stone you — and you want to go back there again?”

Jesus replied, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk by day do not stumble, because they see the world bathed in light; those who go walking by night will stumble because there is no light in them.”

After Jesus said this, he said to the disciples, “Our beloved Lazarus has fallen asleep. I am going to Judea to wake him.” The disciples objected, “But Rabbi, if he is only asleep, he will be fine.”

Jesus had been speaking about Lazarus’ death, but they thought he was talking about

actual sleep. So he said very plainly, “Lazarus is dead! For your sakes I am glad that I was not there, that you might come to believe. In any event, let us go to him.”

Then Thomas, the Twin, said to the rest, “Let us go with Jesus, so that we can die with him.”

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Since Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, many people had come out to console Martha and Mary about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary stayed at home with the mourners.

When she got to Jesus, Martha said, “If you had been here, my brother would never have died! Yet even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask.”

“Your brother will rise again!” Jesus assured her. Martha replied, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her: “I am the Resurrection, and I am Life: those who believe in me will live, even if they die; and those who are alive and believe in me will never die. “Do you believe this?” “Yes!” Martha replied, “I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, God’s Only Begotten, the One who is coming into the world.”

(continued)

When she had said this, Martha went back and called her sister Mary. “The Teacher is here, asking for you,” she whispered.

As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went to him. Jesus had not gotten to the village yet. He was at the place where Martha had met him. Those who were there consoling her saw her get up quickly and followed Mary, thinking she was going to the tomb to mourn. When Mary got to Jesus, she fell to his feet and said, “If you had been here, Lazarus never would have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the other mourners as well, he was troubled in spirit, moved by the deepest emotions.

“Where have you laid him?” Jesus asked.

“Come and see,” they said. And Jesus wept.

The people in the crowd began to remark, “See how much he loved him!” Others said, “He made the blind person see; why could he not have done something to prevent Lazarus’ death?”

Jesus was again deeply moved. They approached the tomb, which was a cave with a stone in front of it. “Take away the stone,” Jesus directed.

Martha said, “Rabbi, it has been four days now. By this time there will be a stench.”

Jesus replied, “Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took the stone away.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Abba, thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they might believe that you sent me!”

Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

And Lazarus came out of the tomb, still bound hand and foot with linen strips, his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus told the crowd, “Untie him and let him go free.”

Many of those who had come to console Martha and Mary, and saw what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

*The Good News of Salvation
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*