

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

THEME: **JESUS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

The readings for today's Mass are focused on the death and resurrection of Jesus in the Holy Week which will in turn give hope to our own death and resurrection.

Prophet Ezekiel in our first reading prophecies about God's plan of bringing the Israelites back to life by bringing them back to the Promised Land. God through the prophecy of Ezekiel assures his people that nothing not even death will stop him from fulfilling his promise.

In our second reading, St. Paul assures the early Christians who were facing persecution, and we who are surrounded by the culture of death, that the same spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies. St. Paul considers the resurrection of Jesus as the basis for our own hope of sharing in it after our own death.

Jesus raising Lazarus from death in our Gospel reading today shows his greatest sign as a deliverer and his victory over death. It also points to Jesus' resurrection, and the Church is using this great miracle to assure us that we too will be raised to eternal life after our own battle with sin and death in this world. So the central message of the fifth Sunday of Lent is the hope for our resurrection. Our readings today assure us that our faith in Jesus who is the resurrection and the life will bring about our own resurrection and eternal life.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, it will be good if we can use this Lenten season to find out the different ways we have bind ourselves and ask Jesus to unbind us. Sometimes we find ourselves in the tomb of selfishness, filled with negative feelings such as worry, fear, resentment, hatred and guilt.

If we want Jesus to visit our dark dungeons of sin, despair and unhappiness, let us ask him at this Holy Mass to bring the light and power of the Holy Spirit into our private life and liberate us from our tombs.

Jesus is always ready to give us new life, He is always ready to command us to come out of our tombs and difficulties just as he did to Lazarus in our Gospel reading today