

Christ Child Catholic Church
Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 29, 2020

Readings:

1st reading, Ezekiel 37:12-14

The oracles of Ezekiel have as their background the **collapse** of the kingdom of Judah.

Death. Certainly many of Jerusalem's citizens died in the final years of the kingdom. But it also has a spiritual meaning. The faith of the people had died out long ago. In fact, 37:1-11 describes a field with the dry bones of Israel.

Life. But the spirit of God can bring the people back to life. For this to happen they must begin to listen to the word of God. In a dramatic scene that precedes this reading, Ezekiel's proclamation of God's word brings those dry bones back to life. The scene recalls the creation of Adam in Genesis when God breathed the breath of life into the lifeless man fashioned from the clay of the earth. If the people turn to God, they will live again. God will lead them out of exile and bring them back to the Promised Land.

Then the people will recognize the power of faith and they will know that true life and security can come only from God.

2nd reading Romans 8:8-11

Flesh. As Paul speaks of "flesh" in this passage, he is referring to human beings living in selfishness and at enmity with God. They "cannot please God."

Spirit. Those who live "in the Spirit" are people who allow the "Spirit of God" to dwell in them. This Spirit is also the "Spirit of Christ" because the risen Jesus is the agent through whom the Father endows believers with the Spirit.

This Spirit helps Christians die to sin and live by the justice of God. This Spirit will also raise them from death to the new life of resurrection.

The Gospel of John 11:1-45

An invitation to think allegorically.

The literal level of the story functions as an allegory. Lazarus' returning from death symbolizes that for a Christian death, like sleep, is not death. The teaching is not merely about the historical Jesus giving a longer life on earth to a person who had died. After all, Lazarus would simply die again. The story is about the fact that Jesus can give eternal life.

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

The entire story of the raising of Lazarus teaches the Christology that was earlier placed on Jesus' lips. John wants his audience to be able to say with Martha, who has experienced Jesus' presence, power and love, **"Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."**

Attention-Getter

Two caterpillars were crawling along a leaf one day discussing the warm weather when a butterfly flew by. The butterfly flitted along until it caught a gentle breeze. It opened its wings to the breeze and sailed along in relaxed enjoyment. This caused one of the caterpillars to comment how he couldn't wait until he could enter into a cocoon to be refashioned into a butterfly. The other caterpillar just grumbled and kept on crawling. He didn't believe in all that caterpillar theology that talked about being transformed. He figured you just plod through life, and once you enter the cocoon and die, you're dead and that's the end of it. But the first caterpillar looked forward to his

new life and found it gave meaning to his somewhat slow and limited life.

Application

Some of the people to whom Ezekiel spoke resembled the pessimistic caterpillar for they saw only death and exile with no reason to hope for anything better. Others listened to Ezekiel when he spoke of dry bones rising to life as the spirit breathed new life into them, and of God raising people from their graves.

Martha and Mary speak of the resurrection on the last day, and Jesus says that he is the resurrection and the life just before he brings Lazarus back to life. But the dead of Ezekiel's day are still in their graves and Lazarus has died again. What are we to do with the talk about resurrection and new life?

As Christians we cannot ignore the promises of Christ. The joys and sorrows we experience, the evil we endure and the good we relish in faith are all part of our living in the spirit...

Let us pray:

Yes, Lord, we do believe that you are true God and true man.

Yes, Lord, we do believe that you became one of us that we might become one with you.

Yes, Lord, we do believe that in the world to come you will wipe away all tears-like those you shed for Lazarus.

Then there will be no more death, no more grief, and no more crying.

Yes, Lord, we do believe.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment.

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Vatican says public will not be admitted to papal Holy Week liturgies...

You all know by now that the Holy week, Triduum and Easter liturgies are suspended. This includes the Chrism mass.

Pope Francis has stated that Holy week and Easter will not be moved.

Greeting everyone my brothers and sisters, I pray that you all remain well.

How quickly things have changed over this past week.

We are living through history and we are the ones who will define the outcome.

It is a time in our world, community and Church where we can unite, be innovative and brave.

Please pray more, let's read the Word of God, observe moments of silence and meditation.

Today in the bulletin are guidelines to reflect the readings of this Sunday 5 of Lent.

I hope you are taking advantage of technology and keeping connected to all those you serve... Fr. Eugenio

MASS INTENTIONS March 28 – April 3

Saturday 5:00 p.m. +Calvin Andrew Stafford

Sunday 10:00 a.m. +Calvin Andrew Stafford

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Ruth McCormick

Thursday 9:00 a.m. Parishioners

Friday 9:00 a.m. All the families

If you can't go to confession, take your sorrow directly to God, pope says

Vatican City – People who cannot get to confession because of the coronavirus lockdown or another serious reason can go to God directly, be specific about their sins, request pardon and experience God's loving forgiveness, Pope Francis said. "This is the right time, the opportune moment. An act of contrition done well, and our souls will become white like the snow," the pope said March 20 during his livestreamed morning Mass. "Return to your father who is waiting for you," the pope said.

"The God of tenderness will heal us; he will heal us of the many, many wounds of life and the many ugly things we have done. Each of us has our own!"

God welcomes every repentant sinner with open arms, he said. "It's like going home."