

CCE classes are back in session March 29, 31, April 1. continuing Big Idea 4: How to be Missionary Disciples of Christ. Our topic: The Church's Call.



Breaking Open the Word for [The 5th Sunday in Lent](#)

By Ginger Herrington

Reading 1: *I will put My Spirit in you.* The Lord promises through the prophet Ezekiel that He would open our graves and we would rise from them. This can be read on two levels: (1) God is talking about the general resurrection at the end of time when Jesus comes again: the Second Coming. (2) Jesus came to redeem us from slavery to sin. The wages of sin is death – so we are spiritually dead when we sin. Jesus defeated death and sin, so we can rise again and again and again through the marvelous sacrament of Confession (also known as Penance or Reconciliation). Let Jesus open your grave – come back to life in the sacrament of Confession where Jesus waits to forgive you.

Reading 2: *You are in the Spirit and are alive because of righteousness.* Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost, revitalizing them with the power to boldly proclaim the Gospel. Jesus grants us His Holy Spirit in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. When we turn away from sin and live in a state of grace, the Holy Trinity dwells within us, giving us a wholly different kind of life. Live a Spirit-filled life!

Gospel: *Jesus said: I am the Resurrection and the Life.* Jesus brings His friend Lazarus back to life. This is not a resurrection, for Lazarus, reclaimed from the grave by Jesus, would nonetheless die again. There is a lesson here for us: Jesus reclaims us from the grave which sin digs for us. We are then free, just as Jesus ordered that Lazarus be freed from his burial winding cloths. If we choose to live in the Light, to walk with Jesus, to live as holy a life as we can, then we will not die again. Remain in Jesus and live. On the other hand, we can – and often do – choose to sin; we choose to die again. Our sweet Lord Jesus is always ready in the confessional to forgive us and to share His life with us. Every time you fall back into the grave of sin, cry out to God in confession and He will bring you back to life.

