



Parish of the Holy Eucharist

Small Group Faith Sharing Material

5th Sunday of Lent—April 6, 2014

Sunday Readings



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What struck you in the reading?
2. What new insight do you have from the reading?

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to my voice in supplication.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,

LORD, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness,

that you may be revered.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

I trust in the LORD;

my soul trusts in his word.

More than sentinels wait for the dawn,

let Israel wait for the LORD.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

For with the LORD is kindness

and with him is plenteous redemption;

And he will redeem Israel

from all their iniquities.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Opening Prayer

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

(source: The Roman Missal, Third Typical Edition)

Mass Readings

Reading 1

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. How can this passage be understood spiritually as well as physically?
2. What is God's promised gift?



Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl

Symbolic rice bowls will be distributed in every bulletin on the first Sunday of Lent. This is a long-standing tradition for Catholics. There will also be the 2014 Lenten Spiritual Guide with information on the Third World countries helped by CRS, as well as recipes and other facts about those countries. The links include videos and other interesting facts about the lives of those living in other parts of the world.

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

The Word of the Lord

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. What does it mean to be in the flesh?
2. What does it mean to be alive in the Spirit?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What struck you in the reading?
2. What new insight do you have from the reading?

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that



The Sacrament of Confession

Lent is a time for Celebrating the Sacrament of Confession. **The week of April 7, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM** the priests will be available in Churches throughout the diocese for the Celebration of Reconciliation.

The Schedule for
the Parish of the Holy Eucharist:
MONDAY, APRIL 7—St. Gregory
TUESDAY, APRIL 8—St. Jude
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9—Sacred Heart
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9—Holy Martyrs
THURSDAY, APRIL 10—Holy Martyrs
FRIDAY, APRIL 11—Sacred Heart

Confessions are heard every Saturday at 3:15 PM in the Church where the 4:00 PM Mass is celebrated. Confessions are also heard by appointment by calling the priest.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS BY OUR YOUTH

**Come out to support
and pray with
the youth of the parish
on Friday, April 11
at Holy Martyrs**



Youth of the Parish of the Holy Eucharist are doing the Living Stations of the Cross at 3 locations within the parish.

Fridays during Lent

April 11 at 6:30PM at Holy Martyrs

Come and pray with our youth as they recount the last steps of his life here.

St. Jude was held on March 7
St Gregory was held on March 28

he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "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. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and

said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Lazarus was brought back to life which foreshadowed the resurrection of Jesus. How is what happened to Lazarus different from Jesus' resurrection ?**
2. **How can this be understood spiritually with the elements of our life that are dead?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **What struck you in the reading?**
2. **What new insight do you have from the reading?**

Watch the Video

Please watch the reflection on the weekly readings prepared by the staff at Parish of the Holy Eucharist. It can be found on the parish website at www.poth.org or you may obtain copies of the DVD at the parish office.

You Tube



Commentary—Echoing God's Word by Fr. Clem Thibodeau

In Matthew, Mark and Luke, the final event which turned the officials of the Jewish nation against Jesus was the "cleansing of the Temple," when Jesus drove the moneychangers and other traders from the Temple area. This was the "last straw." In John's Gospel, the event which finally brought the officials to decide they had to deal with Jesus was the raising of Lazarus back to life. The community for which John wrote considered the Lazarus story so decisive that they saw it as the hinge upon which turned all subsequent events in the witness they gave to Jesus Christ. Here, finally, is the manifestation of the One who was their hope for new life in God. This Gospel passage brings to a climax the hope of the catechumens as they draw nearer and nearer to the day when they too will enter the "tomb" of baptism and be called by Christ to live a new life.

Lazarus was truly dead. There could be no doubt about that. People who had died were normally buried within 24 hours. Many persons believed that the



Exposition and Adoration on Mondays at Holy Martyrs

Be still and know that I am God. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration are available every Monday from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM at Holy Martyrs. In this very noisy world, consider spending some quiet time with the Lord during this Lenten season. One hour a week in quiet prayer, reflection and spiritual reading can till the soil of our souls to open ourselves up to God. Divine Mercy Chaplet is recited at 3:00 PM.

soul remained near the body for three days after death. After that, a person was truly and surely dead. In this passage, we hear that it has *been four days!* For sure, there can be no hope now. But, enter Jesus! With Him even death, true death, will not stand! He has power over life and death. He is identified with the God of the living.

Jesus experiences deep emotions, not just because His friend has died. Jesus grieves; He feels compassion; He is angry. He is angry that this cosmic evil, death, still ravages human life in this world. Who will deal with this old enemy? Who will defeat this ancient foe? Will God's creation forever continue to be assailed by this monstrosity of evil? Death is not what God had intended for human life. The power of death has to be overcome, to show that all evil, all sin, needs to be eradicated from the world.

Martha does not lose hope when everyone else said it was hopeless. She senses that there is a power in Jesus which has not yet been seen among humans. She is possessed by an intuitive conviction that Jesus can make a difference. So, she confronts Him: She bluntly tells Him that He has come too late. "Smell the stench!" Why didn't he come sooner? Underneath her harshness, she knows that Jesus is close to God and that God will hear His plea. She dares to defy logic; she appeals to Jesus.

"Take away the stone!" Jesus knows that the enemy, death, has to be confronted straight on. One cannot turn one's face away from any threat. It has to be faced up to. It needs to be acknowledged. Call it by name. Do not flinch before death itself. Courage and a resolute spirit are needed. There is no pretending that death is not real. We cannot disguise it and dress it up like the

embalmers do. We need to stare it down, armed with the power of God who is the Master of Life. We are not stoics who stubbornly accept death as our fate or misfortune and just die bravely. We oppose death with the Spirit.

Conclude with the Closing Prayer

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For as true man he wept for Lazarus his friend and as eternal God raised him from the tomb, just as, taking pity on the human race, he leads us by sacred mysteries to new life.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever. AMEN

(source: The Roman Missal, Third Typical Edition)

Credits

Opening Prayer. *Missale Romanum, Libreria Editrice Vaticana*, 2008. *Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing Co., New York, 2011.

Readings for Mass. Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC.

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Catechism of the Catholic Church

Holy Week

April 2014

Holy Thursday (April 17)
Mass of the Lord's Supper
 5:30 PM Holy Martyrs
 6:00 PM at St. Gregory
Masses are followed by a
Loaves and Fishes dinner

Good Friday (April 18)
 5:30 PM Holy Martyrs
 6:00 PM St. Gregory
 6:30 PM Sacred Heart
 7:00 PM St. Jude

Holy Saturday (April 19)
The Easter Vigil
 8:00 PM Sacred Heart
 8:00 PM St. Gregory

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2014

8:00 AM—Sacred Heart
 8:30 AM—St. Gregory
 8:30 AM—Holy Martyrs
 9:30 AM—St. Jude
 10:30 AM—Holy Martyrs
 11:00 AM—Sacred Heart

