

MARCH 26, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Believe Jesus is the Messiah, Rise From Your Grave,
Be Liberated From Your Bonds.

Through the prophet Ezekiel we hear the Lord God say, "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them...."

So, people, rise from your graves! Jesus Christ has already risen. The way between us and the Lord God has been cleared. The godman, Jesus Christ, has cleared the way.

During the season of Lent we pause to repent of our sins. What is sin? One way to speak of it is this. It is a breach of relationship with what is good. The breach may be caused by our reaching for things we desire that are not good for us. They would be things that block relationships with people and situations that bring us to wholeness and fulfillment in life. By ourselves it may be difficult to see goodness. We need the guidance. The guidance may be found in relationships with people of good sound moral and spiritual value.

To help humanity see his goodness, God himself came to us as a man, He was one like us. As such he demonstrated it is possible to rise above and beyond the obstacle. God is the one with the ultimate power to overcome evil. God is pure goodness and goodness is the greatest power. Evil might try to compete with goodness, but it can never overpower it.

How is it goodness enters us and overcomes evil? God simply puts goodness into action.

In today's first reading (Ez37) God tells us, I will open your graves and have you rise from them.... I will put my spirit in you that you may live...." Right there you may see the determination and resolve of God. God did not say he was going to attempt this. He said he will DO it.

In his earthly ministry Jesus acted with resolve. In today's Gospel Jesus is told his friend Lazarus is ill. Jesus is not worried for Lazarus' wellbeing. He states, "This illness is not to end in death...." Yet, Jesus already knew the man was dead. Indeed, Lazarus'

earthly death would permit Jesus to demonstrate the power of divine love.

Martha, Lazarus' sister, confronts Jesus. She knew he could have been to her brother's side in time to prevent his death. "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." She also knew Jesus had power over death. What great insight she had into the Lord. "But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus, in a retort of Martha says, "Your brother will rise." Still she had insight, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection of the last day." Then Jesus states that he is the Messiah, the resurrection and life itself. Then, when the other sister of Lazarus, Mary, meets Jesus she has a similar conversation with him.

Jesus encounters many others who were present at the death of Lazarus. There was much lamentation going on in the crowd. Jesus was "perturbed by this. He even wept. Jesus seemed to be disturbed that people did not see beyond the earthly moment. Then he led the whole group to a great reveal. He demonstrated God's power over death itself.

Then, Jesus thanks the Father for the opportunity to reveal the Father's goodness, tells the people to roll back the stone and commands Lazarus to come out. Lazarus does and Jesus commands them to "untie him" from the burial bands that wrapped him so tightly. Jesus said, "let him go." Lazarus was liberated. Surly at this sight, people did come to believe in Jesus as the Messiah.

What will it take for you to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, to rise from your grave and to be liberated from your bonds?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Mt21:1-11;Is50:4-7;Phil2:6-11;Mt26:14-27:66

STEWARDSHIP

Time, Talent, Tithing

Attendance last week:	331
Tithes Collected:	\$5,424.00
Online Giving:	\$902.00
Total:	\$6,326.00
Per Capita:	\$19.11

Thank You!

The second collection this week is for Catholic Relief Services.

On Easter Sunday Please Make a Generous Tithe (Donation)! We depend on such during Christmas and Easter to carry our parish to financial health. Thank you!

Cathy Harper, Dil Hatchett, Tiffany Kentosh, Arnold Lakso, John LaNeve, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Paul Riley, Rick Steffan, Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

SPIRITUALITY

Scriptural Stations of the Cross
Thursday at 7:00pm

Passion Sunday

Next Sunday we celebrate the Passion of Our Lord. It is not about picking up a souvenir, a palm branch. The Liturgy is about humility and obedience before the Lord God. Come prepared!

Holy Week Schedule

April 6 and 7, that is Holy Thursday and Good Friday, the Liturgies begin at 7:00PM.

The Easter Vigil
April 8

That is Holy Saturday, the greatest of all Liturgies of the year,
The Liturgy begins at 8:00PM.

Easter Sunday
April 9
The Liturgies are at 9:00AM and 10:45AM

COMMUNITY

Sunday April 9th
Following the 10:45am Mass

Please help our Easter Bunny...He needs small, wrapped candy to fill his plastic eggs for the yearly Parish Easter Egg Hunt. They can be left in the Rectory or Parish Gift Shop. Thank you!

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI HOTLINE NUMBERS

Statewide (DCF) Abuse Hotline
1-800-96-ABUSE
(1-800-962-2873)
Archdiocesan Abuse Hotline
1-866-802-2873
Victim Assistance Coordinator
Peter Routsis-Arroyo
1-866-802-2873

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 25

4:00 p.m. † Ricky Barone by Anthony & Rose Michel
† Tina Malone by Nancy, Marylou, & Paul

Sunday, March 26

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. † Manuel Coelho Rodrigues by Fernando Rodrigues
† Ruperto Dala by Raymund Dala

Monday, March 27

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, March 28

8:00 a.m. † Benilde De Jesus Coelho by Fernando Rodrigues

Wednesday, March 29

8:00 a.m. † Georgine Cox by Brian & Debra Wells

Thursday, March 30

8:00 a.m. † Georg Polt by Family

Friday, March 31

8:00 a.m. † Kurt & Martha Wagner by Family

Saturday, April 1

4:00 p.m. Reparation for offenses against the Blessed Virgin & her Son

Sunday, April 2

9:00 a.m. † Joan Joyce by Beverly & Joe
10:45 a.m. † Robbie Fairchild by Aunt Rosie

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Angiolina Armenti, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Joseph Devlin, Richard &