



Liturgy Cycle A

## **Fifth Sunday Of The Lent** **Christ The Resurrection And The Life**

### **Introduction**

In today's Gospel we see a scene which is all too common in our own world - people weeping over the death of a loved one. Jesus is at the heart of this sad scene, for it is his good friend Lazarus who is dead. In the midst of the darkness Jesus shines as the light of hope. He tells Lazarus' sisters that those who believe in him never really die. He says the same to us.

### **First Reading (Ezekiel 37:12-14)**

The exile of the people to Babylon is described in terms of death. And their return home is described in terms of resurrection and spiritual renewal.

### **Second Reading (Romans 8:8-11)**

It was the spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. Now this same spirit lives in us. Therefore, we have no need to be afraid of death.

### **Gospel (John 11: 1-45)**

By raising his friend Lazarus from the dead, Jesus shows that he is Lord of life and death.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray that Jesus, the Lord of life and death, may keep us rooted in a love which overcomes death and casts out all fear.

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For the church: that it may never tire in announcing to all people the good news of eternal life won for us by Christ. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all our political leaders: that they may facilitate the work of those engaged in caring for and in preserving life.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**



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**For all those who are saddened by the death of a dear one: that the words of Christ may bring them peace and consolation. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That we may believe ever more firmly that, as we journey through life, we are journeying with Christ and with each other towards the promise land of eternal life. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For our departed relatives and friends: that we may not grieve for them as people who have no hope. They have gone to heaven to see, to know, to worship, to love and to intercede for us. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

#### **Communion Reflection**

**I believe in death.**

**I believe that it is part of life.**

**I believe that we are born to die,  
to die that we may live more fully;  
born to die a little each day  
to selfishness, to pretence, and to sin.**

**I believe that every time we pass  
from one stage of life to another,  
something in us dies and something new is born.**

**I believe we taste death  
in moments of loneliness and rejection,  
in moments of sorrow and disappointment,  
when we are afraid, lose courage and give up,  
when we see our dreams broken,  
and every time we say goodbye.**

**I believe, too, that we are dying before our time  
when we live in bitterness,  
in hatred and in isolation.**

**I believe that each day  
we are creating our own death  
by the way we live.  
To those who believe in Christ,  
death is a gateway,  
a gateway to eternal life.**