

5th Sunday of Lent

COMPUTERS! I TURN mine on and then have to wait for everything to open. I have to wait maybe a nanosecond. I press a button; I'm still waiting. But then my son comes and gently takes the time to explain the program. It turns out I don't understand computers, I'm impatient and I take them for granted.

John's story of Lazarus reminds us how important time is to understanding. Lazarus is sick, yet it takes Jesus four days to arrive in Judea. Why does it take him so long? Jesus says, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." But this is so difficult to understand.

The disciples don't seem to understand the relationship that Jesus has with his father. Some of the Jews have already taken Jesus for granted, saying that, because he cured the blind man, he could have cured Lazarus too if he'd arrived earlier.

Even Martha and Mary, who have enormous faith, have trouble understanding. Lazarus has been dead for four days and Jesus raises him from the dead so that everyone may see the Glory of God, his father.

If there is an area in our life that causes us grief, and we walk closely with Jesus, he will help us gain a new perspective – when the time is right!

*Liz Summers
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Parishes engaged in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) may celebrate the 3rd Scrutiny today.

Roman Missal p. 239; Sunday Lectionary p. 136

Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Psalm 42.1-2)

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

3rd Scrutiny (Cf. Psalm 17.5-7):

The waves of death rose about me; the pains of the nether-world surrounded me. In my anguish I called to the Lord; and from his holy temple he heard my voice.

Introductory Rites (p. 5)

Collect

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. **Amen.**

3rd Scrutiny:

Grant, O Lord, to these chosen ones that, instructed in the holy mysteries, they may receive new life at the font of Baptism and be numbered among the members of your Church. 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. **Amen.**

First Reading (Ezekiel 37.12-14) —————

Thus says the Lord God: "I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 130) —————



With the Lord there is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.

R. With the Lord there is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O · **Lord**.

Lord, hear · **my** voice!

Let your ears be at-·**tentive**

to the voice of my sup-·**pli**-cations! **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark in-·**iquities**,

Lord, who · **could** stand?

But there is forgiveness with · **you**,

so that you may be · **re**-vered. **R.**

I wait for the · **Lord**,
 my soul waits, and in his word · **I** hope;
 my soul waits for the · **Lord**
 more than watchmen for · **the** morning. *R.*

For with the Lord there is steadfast · **love**,
 and with him is great power to · **re**-deem.
 It is he who will redeem · **Israel**
 from all its · **in**-iquities. *R.*

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Second Reading (Romans 8.8-11) _____

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (John 11.25, 26)

Praise to you, Lord, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die.
Praise to you, Lord, king of eternal glory!

Gospel (John 11.1-45)

For the shorter version, omit the parts in brackets [].

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Now a certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So]

The sisters [of Lazarus] sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard this, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

[The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the people there were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”]

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

[Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.]

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

[When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when Mary heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt 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 came with her also weeping, he]

[Jesus] was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved

him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Profession of Faith (p. 8)

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only. There are more suggestions at www.livingwithchrist.ca

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, called to be a community of solidarity with those who are oppressed, we pray to the Lord: R.

For leaders of nations, entrusted with the task of building a just world, we pray to the Lord: R.

For our brothers and sisters in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as they teach us how we can support their efforts to improve their lives, we pray to the Lord: R.

For us, God's holy people, witnesses to the dignity and respect owed each human person, we pray to the Lord: R.

Preparation of the Gifts (p. 10)

Prayer over the Offerings

Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3rd Scrutiny:

Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the first fruits of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface (5th Sunday of Lent, p. 12)

Communion Antiphon (Cf. John 11.26)

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

3rd Scrutiny:

May your people be at one, O Lord, we pray, and in wholehearted submission to you may they obtain this grace: that, safe from all distress, they may readily live out their joy at being saved and

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remember in loving prayer those to be reborn. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer over the People

Bless, O Lord, your people, who long for the gift of your mercy, and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire they may receive by your generous gift. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal (p. 31)