

SUNDAY MARCH 29

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# 5th Sunday of Lent

LIFE AND DEATH; hope and despair; the anguish of waiting – today’s Gospel is awash with gut-wrenching emotion. Yet while reading the story of the death and resurrection of Lazarus, I sit content and self-satisfied. My heart remains indifferent and untouched. I know the ending to this drama and am expecting Easter.

Then I ponder. What is resurrection? What does it mean in my daily life? I remember a day last winter. Tethered to a trusted companion, belted securely into a “sit ski,” I sat poised to take my first downhill ski run. As we took off, an explosion of joy filled my body. Handicapped since birth, I had never experienced such freedom... such wild abandon...

such present-moment living! I squealed with child-like wonder as my hat took flight in the wind. A piece of my soul long ago buried was resurrected. That day I was unbound and set free.

When I think of my time on the hill, I realize that the experience of resurrection is a verb... a dynamic, vibrant, forever-in-motion verb. Daily Jesus yearns to reach down and unbind me from many death-like experiences. With Lazarus I can now hear the voice of Jesus calling me to full life. Willingly I stand straight and tall as Jesus unbinds me from that which hinders. Come! Experience resurrection as a verb!

*Karen Johnson*

**People and Prayers to Remember this Week**

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***Readings of the Day***

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**Ezekiel 37.12-14**

**Romans 8.8-11**

**Psalms 130**

**John 11.1-45**

**Responding to the Word**

**God promises new life through the Holy Spirit. What new spiritual life have you felt this Lent?**

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