



Daily Mass Readings Sunday, March 29th, 2020

Readings: EZ 37:12-14

ROM 8:8-11

Gospel: JN11:1-45

Reflections from Father Blessing

Are you angry with God today? You wouldn't be alone in that anger. Some of Jesus' best friends, Martha and Mary, were angry with him in the gospel today. Jesus waited two days after he heard that Lazarus was sick before he returned. Mary says to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." She fell at his feet and wept bitterly. Why would Jesus allow this to happen to his good friend?

We know that Jesus does go on to raise Lazarus from the dead. However, we might be thinking to ourselves that it worked out good for them, because Lazarus was brought back to life. However, at some point Lazarus did die. So what was the point to bring him back to life, just to let him experience death all over again at another time?

I would like to reflect on that question by posing another. What if this life was all there was? If that was the case, we would fight with our whole heart, mind, and soul to hang onto it. I use those words deliberately because they are the words that Jesus draws out of the scholar in Luke's gospel who poses the question, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Are we going to spend our energy trying to hang on to our life or are we going to spend it on trusting ourselves to the plan of God? The resurrection of Lazarus was about Jesus drawing us to faith. God has power over death. Lazarus' death prefigured Jesus'. And the Resurrection points to the hope in our own resurrection. God wants us to trust him in the midst of our anger, frustration, fear, and pain we experience. Jesus had to do so in the midst of his suffering and death.

We also participate in suffering and death. It will not escape us. However, we can walk through life in trust or in fear. Trust is experienced with joy. Fear is experienced with anger. God wants us to trust him. I encourage you to keep up your spirits. Find ways of finding humor in things.

At this time we can still exercise discipleship by living in hope. Encourage others who are tempted to fear. Remember the reason we exist, "so that all may know the saving power of God, through the gospel of Jesus Christ, alive in his Church". You are being called now more than ever to be disciples of hope. The kingdom of God is at hand. And He has us in his!



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."
- Jn 11:2