

## Today in Focus

MARCH 29 » FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

# When the time is right



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 is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, 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

# Sunday, March 29

*Parishes engaged in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) may celebrate the Third Scrutiny today (see page 208).*

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*(Cf. Psalm 43 [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.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES *(page 25)*

## 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.**

## FIRST READING *(Ezekiel 37:12-14)*

Thus says the Lord God: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit

in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*(Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8)*

**R With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry  
to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my voice in  
supplication. R  
If you, O LORD, mark  
iniquities,  
LORD, who can stand?  
But with you is forgiveness,  
that you may be revered. R  
I trust in the LORD;  
my soul trusts in his word.  
More than sentinels  
wait for the dawn,  
let Israel wait for

the LORD. R  
For with the LORD  
is kindness  
and with him is  
plenteous redemption;  
and he will redeem Israel  
from all their iniquities. R

**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; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

*(John 11:25, 26)*

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!** I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die. **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

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**GOSPEL** *(John 11:1-45)*

*For the shorter version, omit the indented text in brackets and add words in parentheses.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[**N**ow a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the

Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So]

The sisters (of Lazarus) sent word to Jesus saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.” When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

[The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this

world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” He said this, and then told them, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.” So the disciples said to him, “Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.” But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, “Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him.” So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go to die with him.”]

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

[Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the

Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.]

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

[When she had said this, she went and called her

sister Mary secretly, saying, “The teacher is here and is asking for you.” As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell 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 had come with her weeping,]

He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come

and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, he cried out

in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

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**PROFESSION OF FAITH** *(page 28)*

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**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

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**PREPARATION OF GIFTS** *(page 30)*

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**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.**

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**PREFACE: LAZARUS**

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to  
give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty  
and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For as true man he wept for  
Lazarus his friend  
and as eternal God raised  
him from the tomb,  
just as, taking pity on the  
human race,  
he leads us by sacred  
mysteries to new life.

Through him the host of  
Angels adores your majesty  
and rejoices in your presence  
for ever.  
May our voices, we pray,  
join with theirs

in one chorus of exultant  
praise, as we acclaim:  
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God  
of hosts...** (page 33)

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### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

(John 12:24)

Amen, amen I say to you:  
Unless a grain of wheat falls  
to the ground and dies, it  
remains a single grain. But if  
it dies, it bears much fruit.

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### 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.**

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### 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.**

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**DISMISSAL** (page 50)

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### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Out of love, Jesus brings Lazarus  
back to life.

● **Out of love, how has Jesus  
been bringing me to new life  
this Lent?**

*Jesus, thank you for...*

### SAYING AMEN

In the Collect, we ask that we may  
“walk eagerly in that same charity”  
and love with which Jesus “handed  
himself over to death.”

● **How am I walking eagerly  
toward this cross? What holds  
me back?**

*Father, help me...*

*Mass Prayers for Christian  
Initiation: Third Scrutiny*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*(Cf. Psalm 18 [17]:5-7)*

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

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**COLLECT**

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.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

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.**

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**PREFACE: LAZARUS** *(See page 206)*

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**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*(Cf. John 11:26)*

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

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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**Amen.**

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**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.**

## Living with Christ This Week

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Sunday's readings show us how we are led into new life because God's Spirit dwells in us. In this week's first readings, the Israelites are given God's healing after their ingratitude, and the three friends in the fiery furnace receive God's protection because of their fidelity. In the gospels, Jesus explains to his followers that through their relationship with him they will gain an entry into eternal life. ●

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### GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Use these intercessions with your prayers this week.

- For all who work for world peace through justice:  
**R Give them peace and joy,  
O God.**
- For those who are marginalized or discriminated against because they are different: **R**
- For God's spirit of love, mercy, and forgiveness upon all those preparing to be received into the Church at Easter: **R**