

5th SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A



THE GOSPEL [John 11:1-45](#)

They said to him, “Sir, come and see.”

And
Jesus wept.

He cried

“Lazarus,
come out of there!”

Lazarus did.

“Death, now where
is your sting?”

Christ weep
with us,
and for us,

trapped
in burial cloths
with our hands tied,
when we are trafficked,
seized at borders,
homeless.

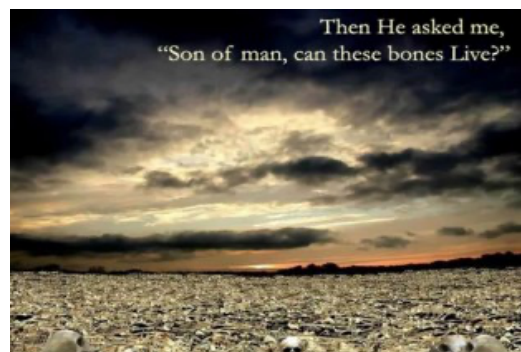
Your passion says,

“Untie them.
Let them go free.”

THE FIRST READING [Ezekiel 37:12-14](#)

*I will put my spirit in you that you
may live.*

*I have promised, and I will do
it, says the Lord.*



Christ,
Open up our graves.
Breathe Spirit into our dry bones.

You promised that we will come to life in you.

THE SECOND READING Romans 8:8-11

You are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Spirit of God,

what would it have been without you?
Shine on our flesh and breathe in our souls.

Be the beginning and ending of all

that we are and do.

Humbly we ask
that you give life to
our weary
mortal souls.



Reflection: Full of Hope and Promise

It's the Fifth Sunday of Lent, and many of us are probably groaning inwardly, "How long, O Lord? Will Easter ever get here?" If this is the case for you, then take heart—and take a long, deep look at each of today's readings. They are shot full of hope and promise.

It is so easy to downgrade resurrection to a vague notion. In fact, and shockingly, a large percentage of Christians doubt the reality of resurrection.

But what is so hopeful on this Lenten Lord's Day is that God does not pitch resurrection to us as a possibility or even a probability but as a *fact*—and, not only as a fact, but a promise. "I will open your graves and have you rise from them . . ."

Twice this fact is declared, and then God makes it a promise.

Paul, writing to the Romans, takes up the theme of resurrection, linking the resurrection of Jesus with the resurrection that awaits you and me. How? Why?

Because we have been imbued with the same Spirit with which Jesus and Ezekiel's people were filled. It is the same Spirit promised by the risen Jesus, sent upon the disciples and all the Church on Pentecost.

The Lazarus narrative takes the general notion of resurrection and gives it specificity. Lazarus's being raised by Jesus prefigures and anticipates Jesus' own rising up. It is

an icon, a promise to us.
and feeling
Lenten journey, take
come—the promise of
resurrection and the life.”



So, if you are struggling
overwhelmed by the
heart. The best is yet to
him who said, “I am the
Fr. John Meoska OSB