



“Lazarus, Come Out!”

Jesus had raised Jairus’ daughter, but while the body was still warm and death was only halfway through its work (Mk 5:21-43). He also raised the widow’s only son, but by halting the funeral procession and forestalling the tomb... before the dead man had fallen completely under the law of death (Lk 7:11-17).

But the whole event that takes place with regard to Lazarus is unique. Lazarus, in whom all death’s power had been completed and

in whom, equally, a complete image of the resurrection shone out... Christ, indeed, would return as Lord on the third day; Lazarus, as servant, was called back to life on the fourth day...

The Lord said, and repeated to his disciples, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified” (Mt 20:18). And when he said this, he saw them growing uncertain, sad, comfortless. He knew they had to be crushed by the weight of his passion until nothing of their own life, their



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own faith, their own light would remain within them but, to the contrary, their hearts would be darkened with the almost total darkness of their lack of faith.

That is the reason why he lets Lazarus’ death continue for four days... From this follows what our Lord tells his disciples: “Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe” (vv.14-15). Therefore, Lazarus’ death is necessary so that the disciples’ faith may rise from the tomb along with Lazarus.

Moreover, Lazarus’ death and his raising reveal the progressive revelation of the resurrection and ours. The Pharisees and many of the Lord’s contemporaries hope for the resurrection. Jesus teaches it firmly. To the Sadducees who deny it he declares, “You are misled because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God” (Mt 22:29). Faith in the resurrection rests on faith in God who “is not God of the dead but of the living” (Mt 22:32; CCC 993).

But there is more. Jesus links faith in the

resurrection to his own person: “I am the resurrection and the life” (v 25). It is Jesus himself who on the last day will raise up those who have believed in him, who have eaten his body and drunk his blood. Already now in this present life, he gives a sign and pledge of this by restoring some of the dead to life, announcing thereby his own resurrection, though it is to be of another order (CCC 994).

To be a witness of Christ is to be a witness to his resurrection. Encounters with him characterize the Christian hope of resurrection. We shall rise like Christ, with him, and through him.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 43[42]:1-2)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

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.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—In our Gospel today, Jesus raises Lazarus to life, proving that, indeed, he is the resurrection and the life. He proves his faithfulness to the Will of the Father even at the cost of his own life. By dying on the cross, in his powerlessness, Jesus gives us the greatest good—eternal life.

As we draw close to the celebration of Christ's Passover, let us entrust ourselves to him.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

(Pause)

P—You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

(The Gloria is omitted.)

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

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, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Ez 37:12-14) *(Sit)*

This majestic prophecy of a broken people rising from the grave is fulfilled in God's power at work in Jesus calling Lazarus back to life.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

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.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 130)

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



With the Lord there is mercy and



fullness of re_ demption.

1. 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)**

2. If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, / LORD, who can stand?/ But with you is forgiveness, / that you may be revered. **(R)**

3. 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)**

4. For with the LORD is kindness/ and with him is plenteous redemption;/ And he will redeem Israel/ from all their iniquities. **(R)**

Second Reading (Rom 8:8-11)

Paul declares that the Holy Spirit who is the gift of the risen Christ to us is the guarantee of our future resurrection.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

All—Thanks be to God.

Verse before the Gospel

(Jn 11:25a, 26) *(Stand)*

All—I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die.

Gospel *(Short Form)*

(Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
All—Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

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

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.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (*Sit*)

Profession of Faith (*Stand*)

(Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used.)

All—I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (at the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Sisters and brothers, today, we are reminded that the Lord is our resurrection and life. Let us therefore hope and believe in the Father's unfailing promise of life as we say:

R—Faithful Father, you are our life.

C—Make us, your Church, remain faithful to your promise of resurrection in our prayer and service towards each other and all people of good will. We pray: **(R)**

C—Help all those who govern hope for the resurrection that their service may bring new life to their countrymen. We pray: **(R)**

C—Move our hearts towards repentance and be reconciled with you and with each other as we come close to Holy week and the remembrance of your Son's paschal mystery. We pray: **(R)**

C—We lift to you our poor brethren, the indigenous, and other minorities. May they also hope for their own resurrection. We pray: **(R)**

C—Raise our departed loved ones into new life when the time finally comes. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: **(R)**

P—Faithful Father, raise us into new life through the passion, death, and resurrection of your beloved Son. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF
THE EUCHARIST



Presentation of the Gifts

(Stand)

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—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.

All—Amen.

Preface: Lazarus

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—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:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Kneel)

Acclamation (Stand)

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion

(Kneel)



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P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Jn 11:26)

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

Prayer after Communion

(Stand)

P—Let us pray. (Pause)

We pray almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, on whose Body and Blood we have communion.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

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.

All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—The Mass has been offered. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All—Thanks be to God.

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