

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT — 9th March 2008

(Shorter Readings)

First Reading

Ezek. 37:12-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

“Therefore prophesy, and say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 130(129)

Response: *With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption*

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| 1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. | R. | 3. My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than those who watch for
daybreak. | |
| 2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness,
for this we revere you. | R. | Let the watchers count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord. | R. |
| | R. | 4. Because with the Lord there is
mercy
and fullness of redemption.
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. | R. |

Second Reading

Rom. 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

If the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:
those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John **R. Glory to you Lord Christ.**

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters of Lazarus sent a message to Jesus, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ But when Jesus heard it, he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

Jesus was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.