

V SUNDAY OF LENT

22 March 26 - CYCLE A

HE WHO WEPT BEFORE THE STONE



We are on the cusp of Easter. And the Gospel presents us with a scene that touches us deeply: Jesus weeps. He weeps at the tomb of his friend. He doesn't act immediately; he doesn't give a speech. First, he is moved, first, he feels. This Jesus, sobbing and asking where they have laid him, is the same one who cries out in a powerful voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The Word poses an uncomfortable question: What have we buried? What areas of our lives have been under the stone for too long? God wants to open tombs, to give back life, to bring back those who were lost. Paul adds that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us.

The charism of hospitality was born precisely from this: from removing stones, from not resigning ourselves to the suffering of

others, from believing that a fuller life is always possible. Lent ends, but its question remains: Do you dare to come out?

SONG – THE NEWS CAME LAZRUS IS SICK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_3nt5qkEzc

GOSPEL – John 11, 3-7.17.20-27.34-45

At that time, the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, “Lord, your friend is sick.” When Jesus heard this, he said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then 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 out to meet him, but 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 whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” Jesus wept and deeply moved, asked, “Where have you laid him?” “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. Jesus wept. 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?” Once more Jesus wept and came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been dead 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. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of linen, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

To delve deeper into the Word

Ez 37, 12-14. I will bring my people back to life, I will bring them back to the land of their fathers.

Salmo 129, 1-8. In the darkness that surrounds us, the first glimmers of Easter are already shining.

Rom 8, 8-11. The gift of the Spirit radically changes the condition of believers.

John 11, 3-7.17.20-27.34-45. We are accustomed to referring to this passage of the Gospel as "the resurrection of Lazarus," but, logically, this is not the appropriate title for the account. When we proclaim, "I believe in the resurrection of the dead and in life everlasting," we are referring to a different reality. Lazarus's death was, so to speak, merely a parenthesis in his earthly life, and after Jesus's miracle, his life resumed its ordinary rhythm. Given this, we can ask ourselves the reason for this miracle. Saint John answers our question and tells us that this miracle is a very important sign: We are accustomed to referring to this passage of the Gospel as "the resurrection of Lazarus," but, logically, this is not the appropriate title for the account. When we proclaim, "I believe in the resurrection of the dead and in life everlasting," we are referring to a different reality. Lazarus's death was, so to speak, merely a parenthesis in his earthly life, and after Jesus's miracle, his life resumed its ordinary rhythm. Given this, we can ask ourselves the reason for this miracle. Saint John answers our question and tells us that this miracle is a very important sign: **No, from now on, nothing will separate us from the love of Christ.**

I pray with the Word

As we approach the Easter of Jesus, after passing through the deserts of our lives, we participate with Him in the resurrection. What does He invite us to rise to? What areas of our lives need to receive the light of Jesus' resurrection? What tombs do we need to abandon?



NEARER MY GOD TO THEE – JEFF WAHL

<https://youtu.be/374zJjTiEdU?si=0XNI-QKEZtWxW9G>

THE BANDAGES THAT BIND US

Lord, you too wept
before the cold stone
of a tomb.

You teach us that
feeling is not weakness,
that the pain of others
deserves our tears.

There are heavy stones within
us, nameless fears,
extinguished lives that
wait for someone to stop
and ask where they are.

Like Martha, we come
to meet you without
having everything clear,
believing only halfway,

but walking, because
we trust in your word.

Call us by our
name as you called
Lazarus, with a voice that
pierces the darkness,
that reaches the depths
where no one else can go.

Give us new eyes
to see the buried one,
the trampled dignity,
the hidden talent,
the life that waits for
someone to remove the slab.

Let us not remain
gazing from afar
at the tomb of another.

Make us capable of touching,
of drawing near,
of getting our hands dirty,
of saying, here I am.

May our hospitality
not be a fleeting gesture,
but a presence that endures,
hands that untie bandages,
a heart that does not
abandon.

Cry out over us too,
Lord, with a powerful voice:
come forth, leave the tomb,
live without fear,
give life with all love.

CANTO. SCHOENSTATT - LÁZARO

<https://youtu.be/92WfYi2DMaA?si=xaXJTnRThagbzpsJ>

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