

“Come Out, Lazarus!” In today’s Gospel Jesus is asking us if we are in a tomb, in a grave: dead. We like to put ourselves in tombs—in the grave—dead to the Lord. Then we play games: *We avoid thinking about what we have done or are doing to ourselves **so** to pretend all is okay.* We fool others that we are happy. But we don’t fool ourselves. Not deep down.

We get involved in the negative, nasty, and sinful. Then, we have a difficult time looking into the mirror.

We try to blame others—they have put us into this tomb. The pressure they put on us to do the evil they are doing—we do. Then, the next day, if not sooner, we feel rotten, dirty, even dead. But they are not to blame, we did it to ourselves. We chose sin and suffer from it.

There are also times that we race into a tomb, into a grave without the temptation of others. We go places where a Christian does not belong—places in the world or within ourselves—and then we feel dead.

“Come Out, Lazarus!” Jesus is calling us. We are all Lazarus. He is calling us to come out of the darkness, and come into His Light. He is calling us to come out of the place of death and come into His Life. The early Christians referred to themselves as *The Living*. That is what we are to be—alive in an otherwise dead world.

“Lazarus, Come Out!” We ask God today for the courage to walk away from that which is killing us and to walk towards the voice that is saying, “Leave this place of the dead and live in My Light, in My Love, in My Joy.”

From Ezekiel in our first reading God speaks—*“I am going to open your graves...O my people. I will put my spirit within you and you shall live...”*

From elsewhere in John’s Gospel (3:17)—Jesus says of Himself: *“God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world but so that through Him the world may be saved; so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.”*

Through Him, and With Him, And in Him—we hear this in every Eucharist; In Him is Life, and He wants to give His Life to us. BUT, unfortunately, in this time of Corona virus/Covid19, we cannot receive Him in the Holy Eucharist today. BUT we can do so spiritually in the words of St Alphonsus Ligouri:

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already
there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Prayer of The Faithful

5th Sunday of Lent—March 29

LEADER:

Jesus is our resurrection and life; may we trust
in His power to raise us to Life eternal.

LECTOR: “Lord Jesus, Hear Our Prayer”

Call your Church from the tomb of death into your wonderful Life:

We pray...

You promised your people that you would “open their graves
and bring them back”; look with pity on the world now give them Life:

We pray...

Let our families know your life and love in this time of isolation:

We pray...

Help us to reach out to the isolated and lonely, the fearful and despairing:

We pray...

Comfort the sick (especially) Candelabra Ferolino; Munchie Reyes;
Aisha Miranda; Samuel Jareno; _____

We pray...

Receive the faithful departed into your kingdom (especially):

Those who have died from the virus; _____

We pray...

In silence we remember our personal intentions and the intentions
of those who have asked for our prayers (PAUSE):

We Pray...

LEADER:

Father,
your children call to you in their time of need.
Be kind and compassionate, open our hearts
to love you in our brothers and sisters.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.