

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**Opening Prayer** – 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...

**First Reading** (Rom 8:8-11)

READER: A reading taken from the spiritual heritage of humanity.

ALL: ***From all time, Heaven has prepared the coming of the Kingdom.***

READER: Today, a passage from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. It is written:

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.

READER: This was a passage from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

**Psalms R./ With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**Second Reading** (Jn 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-36,38-39,41-45)

ACCLAMATION: ***Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*** I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die. ***Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

PRIEST: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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."

Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." 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.

**Third Reading** (*Life of Love* V, pp. 227-228)

ACCLAMATION: ***From the Lord to the Lady, one single Love, one single Mystery: one single Kingdom to lead all His Creation to God.***

MOTHER: A proclamation of the works of the Lady.

ALL: ***The Lady's word is a word of truth.***

MOTHER: In *Life of Love*, Marie-Paule described her days in this way:

It is only right, each day, to sustain the soul that can take no more; to accept to carry with it the burden which, in pouring out its feelings, it lays upon my shoulders. It is only right to restore confidence to the one who believes that everything is falling apart; reassure the one who doubts; share the weight of mental suffering; give understanding to the soul plunged into darkness; succour the soul that calls for help in its despair and in its wish to finish with life; give back peace to the one who has gone astray, in pointing out the way to the confessional; love the one who is despised; reassure the soul that it is on the right path, when it is gripped by a sense of its unworthiness.

This constant giving of self is not carried on without physical effort and mental suffering. If it were only known how I suffer when I see a soul going astray, even a little... With what charity, what humility, do I not envelop my words, in order not to inflict pain; with what deep and supernatural affection must I not imbue that which I have to say! Only God knows the anguish I feel. And when this soul, in its pride, loses heart and turns on me, I accept everything in silence and await the dawning of the light which will awaken the soul and bring it back into the group. And when it does return, I have no reproaches for it; I continue to help it, looking only to the happy occasion that will permit it to ascend higher towards God, always considering myself to be little, so very little...

MOTHER: Thus said the Lady. ALL: ***May she be blessed forever.***

**Prayer after Communion** – We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have Communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

(Biblical source: USCCB)