

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(YEAR A)



Boldly Confess

God of power and might,
by crushing death on the cross,
your Son, Jesus,
revealed your majesty and restored
us to life.

Give us ears to hear your voice,
and call us out of the darkness
of the tomb.

Help us, like your servant Martha,
to boldly confess our faith in Jesus.
May the Holy Spirit
rouse us to share the Good News
so others might know of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 6, 2025
Resurrection and Life



Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:12–14; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; Romans 8:8–11; John 11:1–45. Anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one knows the sadness and pain of grief. Martha and Mary certainly experienced this when Lazarus died. After several days, Jesus arrived and announced that Lazarus would be raised from the dead. The heart of Jesus' message is that whoever believes in him will share in eternal life because he is the resurrection and the life. Through baptism, we have a share in the resurrection, a share in the life of Jesus that moves us to proclaim the Good News here and now. As we tell others of the Gospel, we give witness to our belief.

Ezekiel, in the first reading, tells of God's power over life and death. God will open graves and raise us in the Spirit. This is what Jesus demonstrates with Lazarus so that others might believe in God's power and that "the Father and I are one" (John 10:30).

At the Easter Vigil, the elect will be plunged into the waters of salvation. Witnessing this sacrament, you will see Jesus' promise fulfilled. The elect will be born into eternal life and have a share in God's kingdom. Like Martha, Mary, and the other witnesses, we see the awesome power of God who rescues those who have died in sin. Find your favorite song that speaks of resurrection and use it with your prayer this week.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 7

Live Jesus in Our Hearts

St. John Baptist de La Salle, a passionate educator, is the patron saint of teachers. As a priest, he dedicated his time to making education accessible to impoverished children. He was devoted to training and directing teachers so they could best serve in their classrooms. De La Salle founded the De La Salle Christian Brothers, who operate education centers around the world. The Lasallian community's expression of faith is to "Live Jesus in our hearts . . . forever." St. John Baptist de la Salle, pray for us. *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:12-20.*

Tuesday, April 8

Speaking This Way

"Many came to believe in him [Jesus]" because of the way he spoke. His preaching focused on radical service, compassionate forgiveness, and always pointed to God the Father. How do you speak and carry yourself? Does it point to God? How can you speak in a way that is pleasing to God? *Today's readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; John 8:21-30.*

Wednesday, April 9

Be Free

Jesus responds to the Jews: "Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin." To be free from sin, we must actively choose to turn to God, repent, and resolve to do better. As we approach Holy Week, schedule a time to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Before doing so, prepare yourself with an examination of conscience. Consider journaling as a part of your prayerful reflection and bringing this to your confession. Indeed, the truth will set us free! *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42.*

Thursday, April 10

Friendship with Jesus

Jesus answers the Jews who are persecuting him: he tells them that he knows the Father. They continue to challenge him and, in today's Gospel, throw stones at him. Set time aside today to reflect on your friendship with Jesus. What have you done to cultivate a friendship with him? What have you done to "throw stones" at him? As a part of your reflection, resolve to an action you can commit that will help you grow in relationship with Jesus: consider attending daily Mass, spending time serving someone who is impoverished, reading the Bible regularly, or visiting the elderly. *Today's readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59.*

Friday, April 11

He Heard

Joining the psalmist today, we proclaim: "In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice." The Lord is with us in our joys and sorrows. Before you go to sleep tonight, pray with today's psalm. Begin with the sign of the cross. Read the psalm once to familiarize yourself with it. Read it a second time, paying attention to what the psalmist calls God: strength, fortress, shield. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42.*

Saturday, April 12

Preparing

The end of Lent is near. Holy Week begins tomorrow with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Reflect on your Lenten journey today. Before Holy Week begins, check when your parish celebrates the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Set aside time to participate in this liturgy. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.*

