

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent | Year A**

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Ez 37:12-14 | Rom 8:8-11 | John 11:1-45)

Ezekiel prophesizes that God will open the graves of the dead and have them rise to life. This promise was fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Let us ask God to hear us.

1/ Out of the depths of our hearts, we cry to the Lord, because with him there is mercy and fullness of redemption. For God's faithful peoples. Let us pray that the faithful, led by Pope Francis, may always trust in God and his promise of redemption. Let us pray.

2/ Paul reminds the Romans that if the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in them, then the same God who raised Jesus will also give life to their mortal bodies. For those who have no faith in God and Jesus. We pray that when they witness the suffering and death of their loved ones, they may awaken in themselves a conversion to God. Let us pray.

3/ By the finger of God, Jesus raised the dead man Lazarus. This act foretells how God raised Jesus from the dead, and fulfilled his promise that he had the dead rise from their graves. For those who are still searching for the true meaning of life. We pray that they come to realize that the true meaning of life is in God and with God. Let us pray.

4/ The scripture readings of this Fifth Sunday of Lent point us to the ultimate purpose of our journey on earth. That is the Easter faith we celebrate, and it is our faith of resurrection with Jesus. For our sisters and brothers who believed Jesus to be their Savior and have departed from us. We pray that God who raised Jesus from death to life will have our deceased sisters and brothers rise from their graves. Today we remember [at 4:30 Mass] Betty and Sonny Hardesty, Ruth, Rudolph, Gary and Donnie Fackler [at 10:00 Mass] Hattie and Wallace Frakes, Robert and Hazel Hardesty and Deceased Family Members. Let us pray.

Father in heaven, by raising Lazarus from the dead, your Son Jesus Christ glorified your power on earth and foretold his own being raised from death to glory. Let us experience your glory, so that we may embrace the world you have given us, and transform the darkness within it into the life and joy of Easter. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.