**Reading 1 EZ 37:12-14**

Thus says the Lord GOD:

O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

**Responsorial Psalm PS 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8.**

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. 
Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.
R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered. 
R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

I trust in the LORD; my soul trusts in his word. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the LORD. 
R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. 
For with the Lord is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption; And he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities. 
R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

**Reading 2 ROM 8:8-11**

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.

**Verse Before the Gospel JN 11:25A, 26**

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.
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 Jesus heard that Lazarus was ill, Jesus remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this Jesus 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 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.”

Jesus 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.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?” So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for 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. 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.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.
For the church universal, that it will continue to proclaim eternal life to all,

    We pray to the Lord …

For those in authority, that they make wise and prudent decisions for the good of the community,

    We pray to the Lord

For all those affected by these difficult times of illness and uncertainty, that they be filled with endurance and understanding, and that their faith & trust in our loving, merciful Father be strengthened,

    We pray to the Lord

For the sick, and for their caregivers, that they know the compassionate love of the Christ, Jesus. And for those who have died, that they be glorified in the gift of everlasting life. We pray especially for the people of St. Paul’s parish community, living and deceased,

    We pray to the Lord

For those personal intentions that we hold within the silence of our hearts,

    …{pause}…

    We pray to the Lord

    … {Father prays} …
On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, just before we begin to enter Holy Week, we are summoned to Bethany. If we had been friends of Mary, Lazarus, and Martha, and found out that Lazarus was gravely ill, we probably would have dropped everything to be with them. This was what was so surprising about the behavior of Jesus. Although he was their close friend, he chose to stay away, that God’s glory would be manifested. This is a persistent theme in John’s Gospel. Right to the very end, Jesus’ works were meant to give glory to the Father. As our Lenten journey reaches a crescendo, let us be mindful that, as people who have “put on Christ” in baptism, we are also called, by our attitudes and actions, to give glory to God.

First Reading — Thus says the Lord God: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. Then you shall know I am the LORD, O my people! (Ezekiel 37:12-14).
Psalm — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130).
Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).
Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

GIVE GLORY TO GOD

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, just before we begin to enter Holy Week, we are summoned to Bethany. If we had been friends of Mary, Lazarus, and Martha, and found out that Lazarus was gravely ill, we probably would have dropped everything to be with them. This was what was so surprising about the behavior of Jesus. Although he was their close friend, he chose to stay away, that God’s glory would be manifested. This is a persistent theme in John’s Gospel. Right to the very end, Jesus’ works were meant to give glory to the Father. As our Lenten journey reaches a crescendo, let us be mindful that, as people who have “put on Christ” in baptism, we are also called, by our attitudes and actions, to give glory to God.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

LIFE: A well-spent life is the only passport to heaven. Pope Leo XIII
PRAYER: The more you devote yourself in prayer the more you will do well in your work. St. John Baptist de la Salle
WITH GOD: With God, go over the sea. Without God, don’t even go over the threshold. Russian proverb

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION: Ask senior parishioners about this fifth Sunday, and they will share memories of this Sunday years ago, when it was known as “Passion Sunday.” In those days, the statues and crucifixes were draped in purple cloth, and a deeply somber atmosphere infused worship. The structure is different today for good reason. The stunning changes in the appearance of the church building drew attention away from the twofold work of Lent: reconciliation and preparing for initiation. Today, this Sunday is given to reflection on the necessity to commit, like Jesus, to the Father’s will. Wherever elect are present today, the “A” reading reveals Jesus’ compassion in the face of human suffering, and his desire to call us from the tombs of sin, isolation, and even death itself. As Lent draws to a close over the next ten days, and before the beginning of the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday, we enter an ideal time for celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. Today’s old title of “Passion Sunday” has migrated to next Sunday, also called “Palm Sunday.” In many places, people prepare their own bundles of branches for next week’s liturgy: pussy willow, forsythia, dogwood. If your parish schedules a procession, you may want to prepare these branches at home and bring them along. James Field. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
A message from our Pastor:
I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support & generosity to St. Paul’s Parish through the years. To be sure, your gifts of time, talent, and treasure benefit our parish community, benefit our ministry as a Catholic community, and enhance our ability to respond to the call of Jesus to carry on His work. I look forward to our return as a parish community, and in this difficult time may we keep one another in our collective and personal prayers. May God bless you, keep you safe and healthy. Father Mario

LET US PRAY. FOR A SWIFT END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THAT AFFLICTS OUR WORLD, THAT OUR GOD AND FATHER WILL HEAL THE SICK, STRENGTHEN THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM, AND HELP US ALL TO PERSEVERE IN FAITH.

All Mass Intentions, from March 18, 2020 forward, will be rescheduled once our public mass schedule resumes.

Please pray for those in our book of the sick and especially for:
Hannah Nakagome, Joyce Catania, Gene Crowell, Conrado Benitez, Sally Dollard, David Omran, Travis Griffin, Vickie Mahoric, Carl Helms, Jack Olson, Albert Fernandez, Lloyd Pool, Sr. Jeanenne Weis, Judith Heimer, Annette Schubert, Joan Strachan, Rev. Brian Costello

For those who have died: Elsa Vides, Maria Elena Arellanes

St. Paul’s Parish will stream Mass for
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, April 12, 2020 at 9:15am
Please join us online
simply follow the link at www.stpaulsf.org

All meetings and classes are cancelled until further notice

St. Paul’s Thanksgiving Response to God:
Weekly Collection March 15, 2020 $ 4,113.50
On-line giving February 2020 $ 7,365.00
2020 Annual Appeal GOAL $81,892.00
2020 Appeal Collected through 3.23.2020 $28,468.00
2020 Appeal Balance due by 12.31.2020 $53,424.00