

**Sunday, March 26, 2023**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

- 1) Ezekiel 37:12-14
- 2) Romans 8:8-11
- 3) John 11:1-45

**FOCUS:** Jesus promises that those who believe and follow him will never die.

Today's Gospel recounts Jesus saying, *I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.* These words clearly identify Jesus as the Son of God, the author of life and the one who brings our salvation. The words also give the promise and hope of eternal life in heaven to all who believe in him and persevere in faith.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the reading from Ezekiel, the prophet tells the Israelites that they will know God because he gives them life and frees them from enslavement. Saint Paul explains to the Romans that the life-giving spirit they received through Christ frees them from both sin and death. In the Gospel reading, Jesus proclaims that he is the resurrection and the life and that all who live and believe in him will never die.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: Trusting that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, we bring our petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we will continually strive to open ourselves more fully to the Holy Spirit each day so we may continue to grow in faith and have the grace and gifts needed to give a more faithful witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they seek guidance from God in making decisions that affect the quality of life for all they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel alienated or discouraged, may they find the welcome they long for within the community of the Catholic Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this parish, may our hearts be open and responsive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they come to know the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we thank you for the gift of the Spirit who gives us life. Hear these prayers, and those held within the silence of our hearts, according to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.