

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year A

The miracle of the raising of Lazarus, a sign of our own future resurrection, shows Jesus' power over death. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. He is the Resurrection because his victory over death is the cause of the resurrection of all men. He is the Life because he gives us a share in the life of God which will reach its culmination in eternal life. That is why the Christian can say, "Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death, we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven" (*Roman Missal*).

Martha's faith, as seen in this Sunday's Gospel, sets an example for us: we must believe in Jesus if we are to be raised from the dead and live in him. As St. Peter exclaims before the Sanhedrin in the Acts of the Apostles: "There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved" (Acts 4:12).

God saves us in his Son, Jesus Christ, in line with the mysterious plan which took shape over centuries and was implemented in the fullness of time. As Pope St. John Paul II writes: "The Redeemer of man, Jesus Christ, is the center of the universe and of history. [...] God entered the history of humanity and, as a man, became an actor in that history, one of the thousands of millions of human beings but at the same time Unique. Through the Incarnation God gave human life the dimension that he intended man to have from his first beginning; he has granted that dimension definitively – in the way that is peculiar to him alone, in keeping with his eternal love and mercy, with the full freedom of God – and he has granted it also with the bounty that enables us [...] to repeat with amazement the words of the Sacred Liturgy: 'O happy fault ... which gained us so great a Redeemer!' (*Redemptor hominis*, 1).

Father Frei