

5th Sunday of Lent-A: **Jesus wept- Jesus shares our sorrow:** Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

Joke: An elderly woman, sensing that her death was near, asked her pastor to give her the Anointing of the Sick. After receiving it, she smiled and said, “Soon I’ll be rocking in the bosom of Moses.” The pastor gently corrected her, “No dear, the Bible says the bosom of Abraham.” She replied, “**Father, at my age, you don’t care too much whose bosom it is!**”

There is a gentle humor in that joke—but there is also a deep truth: at the end of life, what matters most is not the details, but **being with God**. And that is exactly what today’s readings are about—**life, death, and the God who brings us beyond both**.

As we enter this **Fifth Sunday** of Lent and begin **Passiontide**, the Church invites us to reflect more deeply on the mystery of Christ—both **His humanity and His divinity**. And nowhere is this seen more beautifully than in today’s Gospel with the shortest verse in the Bible: “**Jesus wept.**”

First, we may ask: *Why does Jesus weep?* He knows He is about to raise Lazarus. He knows death will not have the final word. Yet, He still weeps. **He weeps because He feels the weight of human suffering. He weeps because He enters fully into our brokenness, because love feels loss, God is not distant, and Jesus shares our sorrow.** This reveals something very powerful: God does not love us from a distance—He loves us from within our suffering.

Many people imagine God as distant, unmoved, untouched by human pain. But in Jesus, we see something very different. We see a God who has tears. A God who is compassionate. A God who is involved in our lives. This means, brothers and sisters: when you cry, God understands. When you suffer, God is not silent—He is present. He may not always explain our pain, but He always walks with us through it.

And Jesus is not weeping only for Lazarus. He is weeping for the whole human condition—for the reality of death, for the brokenness caused by sin, for all the suffering humanity carries. His tears are like a silent cry: “***This is not how it was meant to be.***” This connects beautifully with the first reading from Ezekiel. The people of Israel felt as if they were already dead—living in exile, without hope. But God tells them: “***I will open your graves and bring you back to life.***”

What a promise! God does not abandon His people. He brings life out of death, hope out of despair. And in the second reading, St. Paul reminds us how this new life becomes real for us—through the Spirit. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is living in us. Therefore, we are not meant to live only for the world, or “according to the flesh,” but to live as people transformed by God’s presence.

This is where we must examine ourselves. Are we truly living our faith? Or are we only appearing religious on the outside? Sometimes, sadly, the deepest hurts come even from fellow believers—because we fail to live what we profess. That is why St. Paul calls us to authenticity: to let our faith be seen in love, mercy, patience, and forgiveness. Now, coming back to the Gospel—the story does not end with tears. After weeping, Jesus goes to the tomb and cries out: “***Lazarus, come out!***” And the dead man comes back to life. This is the heart of our Christian hope: 🙌 It is not wrong to weep 🙌 It is not weakness to feel pain. But we do not remain in tears. In Christ, we move from tears to hope, from death to life.

Jesus did not prevent Lazarus from dying—but He entered into that situation and transformed it. In the same way, God may not remove all our struggles immediately. But He enters into them and gives them new meaning.

So today, Jesus stands before the “tombs” in our lives—our fears, our sins, our wounds, our discouragement—and He calls each one of us by name: “*Come out!*” **Come out of despair. Come out of sin. Come out of whatever is holding you bound.**

As we prepare for Holy Week, let us not be afraid to bring our tears to God. Let us open our hearts honestly before Him. And at the same time, let us trust beyond the tears—that God is already at work, bringing life even where we see only death.

In those simple words— “*Jesus wept*”—we see the heart of God, the compassion of Christ, and the nearness of divine love. **Your tears are not meaningless. Your suffering is not ignored.** Because in Christ, God Himself has wept with you—and He will also call you into new life. Amen