In Lazarus’ tomb:

5th Sunday of Lent

March 27, 2017

Readings:

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Psalm 130: 1-8

Romans 8: 8-11

John 11: 1-45

As we approach the end of Lent, today's Gospel clearly has in view the future passion and death of Jesus.

That is why John gives us details about the sister of Lazarus, Mary, who anointed the Lord in preparation for his burial (cf. John 12: 3-7). His disciples warn him not to return to Judea; Thomas even predicts that they will "die with Him" ​​if they return.

When Lazarus is resurrected, John looks at the stone removed, the linen cloths and the shroud; All the details that you will notice in the empty tomb of Jesus (see John 20: 1-7).

Like the blind man who is spoken about in last week's readings, Lazarus represents all humanity, the "dead", which refers to all those whom Jesus loves and wants to free from the bonds of sin and death.

Even in today’s narrative, John remembers the blind man (cf. John 11,37). Just like with the man who was born blind in last week’s reflection, Jesus used the death of Lazarus to reveal "the glory of God" in today’s reading (John 9: 3). Also, just as last week, the words and deeds of Jesus give sight to those who believe (cf. John 11:40).

If we believe, we will see that Jesus loves each of us as he loved Lazarus and he calls us from death to the new life.

Jesus has fulfilled, by his resurrection, the promise made by Ezekiel in today's first reading. He has opened the tombs so that we may rise; has placed in us his Spirit so that we may live. This is the Spirit St. Paul writes about in today’s epistle, the same one who raised Jesus from the dead and who will give life to those who were once dead in sin.

Faith is the key. If we believe like Martha in today’s Gospel- that Jesus is the resurrection and the life - even if we die, we will live.

"I have promised and I will," says the Father in the first reading. We must trust in his Word that tells us that in him there is salvation and forgiveness, as we sang in today’s psalm.