

## THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*At the Solemn Eucharist at Eleven o'clock*

### THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

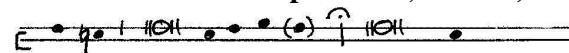
*In all their contrasts between life and death, the readings today anticipate Easter. However, all of them focus more upon the life of the people of God this side of the grave than upon the resurrection as such. Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a prophecy that the people of Israel, dead in exile, will live again on their land. The responsorial psalm is an individual complaint song, a prayer that the Lord, who redeems Israel and is motivated by his "steadfast love," will save the person in trouble. In the epistle, Paul compares the spirit with life and flesh with death, for "to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." John 11 is the account of Jesus's raising of Lazarus from the dead.*

#### FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37.1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, thou knowest." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

The word of the Lord  
*R/. Thanks be to God*

## PSALM: 130—de profundis; Tone IV,6



- 1 OUT OF the deep have I called unto **thee**, O Lord : Lord, hear my **voice**.
- 2 O let thine ears con-**si**-der well : the voice of my com-**plaint**.
- 3 If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is **done** a-miss :  
O Lord, who may abide **it**?
- 4 But there is forgive-**ness** with thee : therefore shalt thou be fear-**ed**.
- 5 I look for the Lörd; my soul doth **wait** for him : in his word is my **trust**.
- 6 My soul looketh for the Lord more than watchmen **for** the morn-**ing** :  
yea, more than watchmen for the morn-**ing**.
- 7 O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord **there** is mercy :  
and with him is plenteous redemp-**tion**.
- 8 And he shall **re**-deem Is-ra-el : from all his **sins**.

#### SECOND READING: Romans 8.6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord  
*R/. Thanks be to God*

#### SEQUENCE HYMN: 829 (AOH 17)

#### VEXILLA REGIS PRODEUNT

- 1 The royal banners forward go,  
The Cross shines forth in mystic glow;  
Where he in flesh, our flesh who made,  
Our sentence bore, our ransom paid.
- 2 There whilst he hung, his sacred side  
By soldier's spear was opened wide,  
To cleanse us in the precious flood  
Of water mingled with his Blood.

- 3 Fulfilled is now what David told  
 In true prophetic song of old,  
 How God the heathen's King should be;  
 For God is reigning from the Tree.
- 4 O Tree of glory, Tree most fair,  
 Ordained those holy limbs to bear,  
 How bright in purple robe it stood,  
 The purple of a Saviour's Blood!
- 5 Upon its arms, like balance true,  
 He weighed the price for sinners due,  
 The price which none but he could pay,  
 And spoiled the spoiler of his prey.
- 6 To thee, Eternal THREE in ONE,  
 Let homage meet by all be done:  
 As by the Cross thou dost restore,  
 So rule and guide us evermore. Amen.

**GOSPEL: John 11.1-45**

*R/. Glory be to thee, O Lord*

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judæa again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any one walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if any one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." Thus he spoke, and then he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go,

that we may die with him." Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying quietly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odour, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

The Gospel of Christ  
*R/. Praise be to thee, O Christ*