

RCIA Third Scrutiny on the Fifth Sunday of Lent

8 am Mass 17 March 2024

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Reading John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?’ Jesus replied:

‘Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.’

He said that and then added, ‘Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.’ The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus put it plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.’ Then

Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Homily

Creed

Scrutiny

Leader: I ask our Elect, who will be receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter to please come forward as I call out your names to receive The Lord’s Prayer from the Church.

Each Elect comes forward, bows and stands in front of the Altar facing the congregation

Bryan Ngai Yan KWOK

Elizabeth YAN

Jingjing WEI

Lili Lillian LI

Yin YE

Zhengxue Li LIU

Anita LAM

WingYu WONG

Zhaoxian GONG

Yong CHEN

Priest: I ask all of you assembled here to pray in silence that these Elect of God be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin and true freedom of the Children of God.

And I ask you, Elect of God, as a sign of your inner spirit of repentance to bow your heads in prayer.

Silence for a few minutes

Prayer of the Faithful

Priest: Let us pray for these Elect whom God has chosen. May the grace of the sacraments conform them to Christ in his passion and resurrection and enable them to triumph over the bitter fate of death.

Leader: That these Elect may be given the faith to acknowledge Christ as the resurrection and the life. Lord hear us.

Leader: That they may be freed from sin and grow in holiness that leads to eternal life. Lord hear us.

Leader: That liberated by repentance from the shackles of sin they may become like Christ by baptism, dead to sin and alive forever in God's sight. Lord hear us.

Leader: That they may be filled with the hope of the life-giving Spirit and prepare themselves thoroughly for their birth to new life. Lord hear us.

Leader: That the Eucharistic Food, which they are soon to receive, may make them one with Christ, the source of life and of resurrection. Lord hear us.

Leader: That all of us may walk in newness of life and show to the world the power of the risen Christ. Lord hear us.

Leader: That all the world may find Christ and acknowledge in him the promises of eternal life. Lord hear us.

Leader: Let us pray for Pope Francis, our bishop Anthony, all bishops, priests and religious. Lord hear us.

Leader: Grant patience, healing and comfort to those who are sick and suffering. Lord hear us.

Leader: Grant eternal rest to our recently departed relatives and friends. Lord hear us.

Priest: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may continually allow your light to shine in us and through us so that all may come to believe and be saved. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Exorcism

Priest invites the Elect to face the Altar

Priest: Father, source of all life, in giving life to the living you seek out the image of your glory and in raising the dead you reveal your unbounded power. Rescue these elect from the tyranny of death, for they long for new life through baptism. Free them from the slavery of Satan, the source of sin and death, who seeks to corrupt the world you created and saw to be good. Place them under the reign of your beloved Son that they may share in the power of his resurrection and give witness to your glory before all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Priest stretches his hands out to the Elect

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, you commanded Lazarus to step forth alive from his tomb and by your own resurrection freed all people from death. We pray for these your servants, who eagerly approach the waters of new birth and hunger for the banquet of life. Do not let the power of death hold them back, for by their faith, they will share in the triumph of your resurrection, for you live and reign for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

Dismissal of the Elect

Priest: Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to recreate the face of the earth. Please return to your seats.