

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 129)

ANTIPHON: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

RESPONSE: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

LECTOR: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

LECTOR: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R.**

LECTOR: My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**

LECTOR: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

NEXT WEEK (Passion Sunday, Yr A) Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

Want to learn more?

Daybreaks Daily Reflections for Easter and Lent takes the reader into the depths of God's mystery. For many who must juggle life's daily demands, Lent often seems to pass by with little opportunity for spiritual growth. But in this booklet, Father Ron Rolheiser provides reflections for each day of Lent and Easter that are short and clear enough for the busy person, yet provocative, and challenging to the spirit. The booklet is available from Majellan Media for \$7.50. For more information contact us at **03 9592 2777** or **office@majellan.org.au**

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Opening our hearts and minds



29 March 2020 5th Sunday Lent Year A

It's a wonderful feeling to walk outside, to see the trees and the flowers, to feel the warmth of the sun on our body and to breathe in the fresh air. It's undeniable that spending time in the great outdoors is good for us physically, emotionally and spiritually.

However, in today's fast paced modern world, all too easily we can be caught up with things that need to be done around the house or at the office. It is so easy to be glued for hours on end to the computer screen, our smart phones and other gadgets.

Perhaps the modern world and modern technology have helped us to create our own 'tombs'. We have unwittingly set up comfort zones in our homes, in front of the television, or at our workplace computer. As the saying goes, we have become 'too clever by half'.

In the gospel this week, Jesus calls his friend Lazarus from his final resting place, his tomb. He calls Lazarus out from the darkness into the light. He unbinds him and sets him free. Lazarus can once more experience the fullness of life found in the world around him, as well as the fullness of life in the people that love and care for him. He's been given a second chance in life.

In our sometimes chaotic lives, we can inadvertently alienate people who love and care for us. It is all too easy to lock ourselves into our schedules and responsibilities

and not spend quality time with others. Even family members who may live in the same house as us. It is important to allow them to unbind our eyes and our bodies and to see that there is something even more essential than work. After all, we are part of a community, part of a family, and we are not alone.

In Jesus' life and ministry, he always surrounded himself with people and encouraged them to see the bigger picture. He wanted people to open their eyes to others around them and to the wider world. Jesus set them free from the tomb of their lives, brought them out from darkness into light, unbound them and set them free. Today, Jesus wishes the same for us.

Let us during this period of Lent, open our eyes, hearts and minds to the world around us, to nature and to people everywhere. For a time, let us put aside our responsibilities and our work and allow the life that is all around us to wash over us and enter into us; to experience and feel that we are part of something larger and wonderful. To be unbounded, to be set free.

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