

## FOURH SUNDAY OF LENT      Year A

*The Priest says:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

*The people reply:* **And with your spirit.**

(...)

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault,  
through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

*The absolution by the Priest follows:*  
May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

*All:* **Amen.**

Collect

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,  
may we walk eagerly in that same charity  
with which, out of love for the world,  
your Son handed himself over to death.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

*All: Amen.*

### FIRST READING (Ezek 37)

#### **A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel**

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

*All: Thanks be to God*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 130(129)

*With the LORD there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the sound of my pleadings.

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?

But with you is found forgiveness,  
that you may be revered.

I long for you, O LORD,  
my soul longs for his word.  
My soul awaits the Lord  
more than watchmen for daybreak.

More than watchmen for daybreak,  
let Israel hope for the LORD.  
For with the LORD there is mercy,  
in him is plentiful redemption.  
It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

## SECOND READING (Rom 8:8-11)

### **A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact 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, although 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 Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

*A//*: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation (cf. John 11:25f)

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

Everyone who believes in me shall never die.  
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

## GOSPEL (John 11:1–45)

*The Priest, says:*

The Lord be with you.

*The people reply:*

**And with your spirit.**

*The Priest:*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The people reply:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Today the Gospel is proclaimed by the priest, who reads the words of Jesus (J), and by other readers who take the parts of the Narrator (N), the Sisters (S), the Disciples, and the Jews (D).*

**N** At that time: 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, **S** ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ **N** But when Jesus heard it he said, **J** ‘This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, **J** ‘Let us go to Judea again.’ **N** The disciples said to him, **D** ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?’ **N** Jesus answered, **J** ‘Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.’ **N** After saying these things, he said to them, **J** ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.’ **N** The disciples said to him, **D** ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.’ **N** Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, **J** ‘Lazarus has

died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ **N** So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, **D** ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’

**N** 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. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, **S** ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.’ **N** Jesus said to her, **J** ‘Your brother will rise again.’ **N** Martha said to him, **S** ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ **N** Jesus said to her, **J** ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ **N** She said to him, **S** ‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’

**N** When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, **S** ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ **N** And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into 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. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, **S** ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ **N** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, **J** ‘Where have you laid him?’ **N** They said to him, **D** ‘Lord, come and see.’ **N** Jesus wept. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ **N** But some of them said, **D** ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?’

**N** Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, **J** ‘Take away the stone.’ **N** Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, **S** ‘Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.’ **N** Jesus said to her, **J** ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?’ **N** So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, **J** ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on

account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.’ **N** When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, **J** ‘Lazarus, come out.’ **N** The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, **J** ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

**N** Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

The Creed

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
*At the words that follow, up to and including ‘the Virgin Mary’, all bow.*  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.**

The Offertory

*The Priest says:*

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours

may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

*The people reply:*

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Hear us, almighty God,  
and, having instilled in your servants  
the teachings of the Christian faith,  
graciously purify them  
by the working of this sacrifice.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*All: Amen.*

The Eucharist Prayer

*The Priest says:* The Lord be with you.

*The people reply:*

**And with your spirit.**

*The Priest, raising his hands, continues:*

Lift up your hearts.

*The people:*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*The Priest, with hands extended, adds:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*The people:*

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For as true man he wept for Lazarus his friend  
and as eternal God raised him from the tomb,  
just as, taking pity on the human race,  
he leads us by sacred mysteries to new life.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty  
and rejoices in your presence for ever.  
May our voices, we pray, join with theirs  
in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

(...)

*The Priest says:* The mystery of faith.

*The people:*

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

## The Communion Rite

*The Priest says:*

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

*All:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

*The Priest:*

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:*

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

*Then the Priest alone says aloud:*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*The people reply:* **Amen.**

*The Priest adds:* **The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

*The people reply:* **And with your spirit.**

*During the breaking of the host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*The Priest genuflects, takes the host and says aloud:*

**Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

*All say:*

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

[Prayer after Communion](#)

*The Priest:*

We pray, almighty God,  
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,  
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*All reply:* **Amen.**

### Blessing

*The Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

*All:* **Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**