

## Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

The Raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11:1–45)

### “He Is Never Late: The Mystery of God’s Timing”

By Fr. Tesha, OP.

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we draw closer to Easter, the Church places before us a deeply human story. It is a story of friendship, loss, waiting, and hope. At the center of it stands a question many of us have asked at some point in life. *Lord, why did you delay? Why now?*

Martha and Mary felt it. They say to Jesus, *“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died”* (John 11:21, 32). Their words carry pain. They also carry faith. They believed in Him, yet they struggled to understand His timing.

And perhaps we do the same. We pray. We wait. Sometimes nothing seems to change. However, *this Gospel gently reminds us that what looks like delay is not absence. What feels like silence is not abandonment! God is at work. His timing, though mysterious, is always right. He is never late.*

First, **Jesus enters our human brokenness.** He does not remain distant. He comes to Bethany. He listens. He sees the tears. Then something very simple and powerful happens. *“Jesus wept”* (John 11:35).

***This is our God: He is not cold; He is not removed; He feels with us.*** Therefore, Lent invites us to be honest with Him. We bring our wounds, our fears, our sins to him. *We bring our addictions as well. Some struggle with alcohol. Others with drugs. Some are caught in pornography. Others in gambling, anger, or unhealthy attachments. Furthermore, there are those battling silent addictions such as social media, approval, or control.* We do not hide these things. We bring them to Christ. He meets us there, not when we are perfect, but as we are.

Secondly, **faith in Christ is “*hic et nunc*” (here and now).** Martha speaks about the resurrection on the last day. Jesus responds with something greater. *“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live”* (John 11:25).

This changes everything. Eternal life is not only future. *It begins now. Here and now!* In this moment. Nevertheless, many of us live as though faith is something for later. We

postpone conversion. We delay prayer. We say, "I will change tomorrow." Yet Christ invites us today. *Lent, therefore, is not just preparation for Easter as a date. It is an invitation to encounter a living Person now.*

Thirdly, **conversion is urgent.** Jesus stands before the tomb and cries out, "*Lazarus, come out!*" (John 11:43). The command is clear. It is direct. And Lazarus must respond.

In the same way, each of us has a tomb(s). It may be sin. *It may be spiritual laziness. It may be discouragement, resentment, or even despair. It may also be addiction that has slowly taken control of one's life as mentioned above.* However, the voice of Christ still reaches us. It calls us by name. *It says, "Come out." Not tomorrow. Not someday. But hic et nunc, here and now!* ***Lent is the time to respond not to postpone. It is the time to take that step, even if it is small.***

**Finally, conversion is not only personal, it is as well communal.** When Lazarus comes out, he is alive, but still bound. Then Jesus says, "*Untie him and let him go*" (John 11:44).

This is very important. We need one another. *We cannot walk this journey alone. Sometimes what binds us is strengthened by isolation.* However, healing often begins in community. Therefore, *we are called to support one another. We encourage. We listen. We forgive. We avoid judging too quickly. We help remove the burdens others carry as opposed to adding on them.* In this way, the Church becomes a place of life, not condemnation.

Friends, to say the least;

This Gospel speaks to our hearts. It tells us that even when God (our friend) seems late, He is working. Even when we do not understand, He is present. Nevertheless, He calls us to trust.

Today, Christ stands before the tombs of our lives (as we may identify them). He calls each one of us by name: *(your name) "Come out." Let us respond. Let us leave behind whatever binds us. Let us take one real step toward freedom. And furthermore, let us help one another along the way.*

With such in mind and practice, when Easter comes, it will not only be something we celebrate. It will be something we live. The new life of Christ will already be at work within us. **Amen.**

*Given at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Kitisuru.  
Sunday 22, 2026.*