

March 29, 2020 - Fifth Sunday of Lent – Cycle A
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And so, it's very appropriate, the gospel, with everything we're going through now. The shortest verse of the whole Bible is in today's gospel: "Jesus wept". And it tells us immediately why Jesus wept. "See how much he loved him". We got to know and believe, that with all this, Jesus weeps with us. Now again, Jesus knew, in a few moments, he was going to bring Lazarus to life. Death never has the last say when Christ is present. Again, when the world puts a period, God puts a comma. Jesus brings life. That's who He is. But he still wept. He weeps with us. He knows the pain, he knows, you know, we should be weeping. There's no way out of this. We should be weeping for all of these people who are dying. We should be weeping for those who have died. Yesterday, I read about a baby who got the coronavirus, and died. We should be weeping. And we know that we don't weep alone. Jesus in his humanity weeps with us. First of all, remind us that we are not alone in any of this. He is with us, and it touches his heart – everything that happened. But even though it touched his heart: it said, "The one he loved is sick". There isn't a person in the world today who is sick who is not loved by God. You are loved by God. And yet, he promises that he can bring all things together. Again, when I do a parish mission or I do a healing mass, I always ask the people, I say, "now, what is the greatest healing"? And they always say spiritual, and this and that. And I say, "No, the greatest healing is death". And then everyone goes, no I don't want that one, Father. Can you give me another one tonight? Everybody wants to go to heaven, correct? But nobody wants to die to get there. It's the only way to get there, it really is. So, if heaven is everything we say it is, who's the one most blest? The one who dies at two? Or the one dies at 92? The one who dies at two, right?

To get into this mindset, I want you to think about your mother. Think about being inside of her. You were inside of her. You were inside your mother for nine months. You could feel your mother, you could experience your mother. It was dark in there. You didn't breathe air. It was an altogether different life. You breathed embryonic fluid. It was in your lungs. You could feel her, you could experience her. Everything you had came from your mother. But you could not see her. Until you were born.

We are in the womb of God. It doesn't make God a woman; it's an analogy. We can feel God, we can experience God, everything we have comes from God. But we can't see God. Until we are born to eternal life. Then we see him face to face. Now, I don't anybody, I don't know about you, but anyone who wants to go back inside their mother. Anybody? No? But once someone is on the other side, and can see the glory of God, they don't want to come back here. I often talk about poor Lazarus. He died twice. I'll bet he was excited.

But God knows that he brings life out of all this. But he still weeps with us. So, he weeps with us to show that he is still touched by us, and still knows the problems we go through. But it's a weeping that does not end. It's a weeping that ends with hope: that God will make all things work together for good. Whether he calls us home, whether he keeps us here. This is the reality: that God makes all things work together for good. That our God is a God of love and a God of life. And he brings us all life. So, today, I just want you to focus for a moment on being loved. On knowing that Jesus weeps with you. That Jesus loves you. And, that Jesus promises that he is going to take care of everything. He has the final word. And the final word is not death. It's life. Eternal life.

May each of you know His love, today and forever. Amen