

Today God's Word proclaims a powerful truth: God opens graves.

Through the prophet Ezekiel the Lord says: "*O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them.*"

Not only at the resurrection at the end of time. But the Gospel today show us God begins opening graves even now.

Every one of us knows what a grave looks like.

Sometimes it is made of stone in a cemetery.

**Sometimes the grave is a heart hardened by sin,
a marriage buried under resentment,
a soul suffocating under addiction,
a faith that has slowly died from indifference.**

Lazarus has been dead four days. In that culture, that he was really dead. Even Martha says, "*Lord, by now there will be a stench.*" In other words: "Jesus, it's too late."

But the glory of God often appears precisely where we think it is too late.

Jesus approaches the tomb, and he weeps, because death was never part of God's plan for humanity.

But He does not stop there. Standing before the tomb, Jesus cries out:

“Lazarus, come out!”

And the dead man walks out. The grave loses its power.

But this Gospel is not just about Lazarus. It is also about us.

Christ is standing before some grave in your life:

A sin long hidden.

Resentment in the heart.

Faith that has grown cold.

Often, we want to keep the stone in place. But Jesus says:

“Take away the stone.”

St. Paul reminds us that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us. Christianity is not only a teaching; it is resurrection power living within us.

And notice how the Gospel ends. When Lazarus comes out, he is still wrapped in burial cloths. So Jesus tells the people:

“Untie him and let him go.”

Resurrection begins with Christ—but freedom unfolds in community.

We help untie one another, through forgiveness, through encouragement, through prayer, through mercy instead of judgment.

The Church is meant to be a place where the resurrected learn how to live again.

As we approach Holy Week, the Lord speaks the same words today that He spoke at the tomb of Lazarus:

“Come out.”

Come out of sin.

Come out of despair.

Come out of whatever has buried your soul.

The God we worship is the God who opens graves and gives life again. Blessed be him.