



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2023

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11: 25-26)

We heard or read the story of Jesus, the conversion of the Samaritan woman, and the curing of the man born blind in these past two Sundays. These remarkable stories showed the power of Jesus, the Son of God, bringing new life to both. One with a new heart focused intently on Jesus, and one with a new sight gazing clearly at Jesus.

This fifth Sunday of Lent, we hear one more story that brings more light to all of us readers or listeners of the power vested in Jesus. This story is about the raising of Lazarus, who had died and was buried in the tomb for four long days. In that period, we can imagine that Lazarus could already be decomposing. Jesus showed the depth of His love for Lazarus and His sisters, Martha and Mary, by raising him from the dead. Jesus brought a new heart and eyesight for this man and a new life that will be given to all. As Jesus said, *“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”*

When someone close to us dies, we feel the pain of loss and sadness. We are affected to a level that brings uncertainties about what comes after. Death reminds us that we are finite and fragile beings. But things are made clearer to us that death is not the end of life. Jesus brings back the life of Lazarus. And most of it all, Jesus rose from the dead to give new life to anyone and everyone. In as much as we may think of our death, Jesus will bring us new life in Him after this life, and our life here and now can find meaning if we embrace Him as the source of life.

When I speak of Jesus as the source of life, I mean that He sustains us in every way whenever trials and tribulations come. He empowers us to be better people and to live in peace and joy. And more so, He purifies our souls when we are dead in sin. The life that Jesus is offering us is life after death, even here and now.

As we enter the Holy Week, let this be a moment to ponder deeper into the mysteries of our faith in Jesus. We journey with Him through His Passion and Death. We rise with Him with a renewed, resurrected life in grace and truth. Let Him take hold of our lives and live up to our call as faithful disciples.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual