



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“When Christ Breathes Life Within”

Over the past two Sundays, we have heard powerful stories of Jesus and His encounters with the Samaritan woman and the man born blind. These moments were more than miracles. They were acts of rebirth. One woman received a new heart that yearned for the living God. One man gained new sight that let him see Jesus with clarity and faith. Both were pulled out of darkness and into life.

This Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church offers us another story, one that delves even deeper into the mystery of who Jesus is and what He desires for us. It is the raising of Lazarus, a friend who had not only died but had been in the tomb for four days. By then, his body would have already started to decay. Yet Jesus, moved with deep love for Lazarus and his grieving sisters, Martha and Mary, calls him out from death. Jesus does not just restore Lazarus’ heartbeat, He restores his future, his dignity, his hope. And in doing so, Jesus reveals the truth of His identity, “I am the resurrection and the life.”

In a world increasingly marked by a culture of death, where human life is often dismissed, discarded, or devalued, this proclamation is not just comforting, it is revolutionary. Jesus does not stand far from our suffering. He enters into it. He confronts death head-on. And He declares that death does not have the final word.

We know the pain of losing someone we love. We know the ache, the questions, the fear of what comes next. Death exposes our fragility. But the Gospel reminds us that death is not the end. Jesus not only raised Lazarus. He Himself rose from the dead so that every one of us may share in His life. And this life is not only a promise for the future but also a gift for the present.

When I say Jesus is the source of life, I mean that He sustains us when the world feels heavy. He strengthens us when we are overwhelmed by violence, division, addiction, despair, or sin. He restores us when we feel spiritually numb or morally exhausted. He breathes life into places within us that we thought were already dead. The life Jesus offers is not merely life after death, it is a life of meaning, purpose, and grace *here and now*.

As we enter Holy Week, let us step more deeply into the mystery of our faith. Let us allow Jesus to take hold of our hearts and awaken what has grown cold, weary, or dead. In a time when many voices promote fear, anger, and hopelessness, let us choose to listen to the voice of the One who calls us out of the tomb.

Even in these troubled times, Jesus desires to perform a miracle within us, to raise us from spiritual death, to renew our faith, to strengthen our hope, and to ignite our love. We walk with Him through His Passion and Death, not as spectators but as disciples who long to rise with Him. And when we rise with Him, we rise into a life rooted in grace, truth, and the unshakable dignity that comes from being children of God.

May this Holy Week lead us from darkness to light, from fear to trust, from death to life.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual