

MARCH 13, 2016

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A



EZEKIEL 37:12–14

PSALM 138:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8

ROMANS 8:8–11

JOHN 11:1–45 OR 11:3–7, 17, 28–27, 33B–45

## REFLECTION

We're past the middle of Lent, and we may be tired of fasting, of limiting our choices in a certain area. This Sunday's Gospel, however, is speaking about the opposite of limitations. It holds a promise of freedom. Sometimes we can think our situations are hopeless or overwhelming: I'll never make the team, I can't find a job, that teacher just doesn't like me. The situations are endless, and we may feel as if we have no power to effect any change.

We know, though, that we can turn it over to Jesus and trust him to come through for our greater good. Jesus can give us everlasting life. If we allow him, he can free us from whatever limitations we have (or think we have). If he can raise Lazarus from the dead, he can certainly work with our situation, whatever it may be.

## ACTION

This week, make a list of all the limitations that keep you from living a life totally dedicated to Christ. Consider how they impact your relationship with him. Then, attend a Lenten Penance service or individual confession, and bring your list to God. Choose one area on your list and ask Jesus to help you and bring you life and freedom.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Who do I know who has allowed Jesus to set him or her free?
- How can I learn from this person's life?