

"A THIRST QUENCHED!"-THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 29, 2020 - EZEKIEL 37:1-14; ROMANS 8:6-11; JOHN 11:1-45
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

What quenches your thirst? Does it matter what you are thirsty for? Have you ever tried water, pop, something else, and nothing seems to quench that thirst? In the midst of these very different days, many of us find ourselves at times thirsting for health, purpose, support, drive, stability, certainty, assurance, endurance, connections, togetherness, hope, and more. What is your spirit thirsty for? As our Lenten journey continues through those seven simple, powerful, renewing last words of Jesus on the cross, we remember the fifth time Jesus speaks: "I thirst." As we revisit in our Gospel the great story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, we see like Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, Jesus quenches our every thirst, our thirst for the breath of life, for freedom from doubt and want and worry, for relationships and compassion and salvation. Jesus was nearing the end of his time on the cross, and still he thirsted. Our Lenten journey is nearing its end for this year, may we stay thirsty, thirsty for Jesus, thirsty for the One who thirsts for us to believe him, to trust he quenches our every thirst!

1. In the grace of Jesus, a thirst is quenched for life, real life.
Ezekiel 37:3-9,14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:25-26
 - A. What was dead is alive, what is dead has been buried, what is alive is given new life.
 - B. To quench the thirst for life, you need to be able to breathe.
 - C. God is forever giving life and breath to our dry bones and spirit. In Jesus' last breaths, he gives breath, he breathes in life, he breathes in The Spirit; Jesus breathes life into us; Jesus breathes The Spirit into us!

2. In the grace of Jesus, a thirst is quenched for freedom.
 - A. Jesus quenches our thirst for faith and assurance, to be free from doubt, want and worry. John 11:21
 - B. Jesus quenches our thirst, to free us from every stone that gets in our way, including those stones we are dealing with these days, stones of: fear, uncertainty, loneliness, emptiness, depression, worry, insecurity, and more. Whatever stones you are facing these days, trust anew they have no chance of holding you back! If Jesus would not allow a stone to hold back his beloved friend, Lazarus, from calling him forth, and being raised to new life, trust anew, every stone you face will be moved away, too! John 11:39

- C. Jesus quenches our thirst for faith and light, to free us from doubt and darkness. John 11:40
 - D. Jesus quenches our thirst to hear Jesus' call, to free us from searching through all the voices. John 11:43
 - E. Jesus quenches our thirst to be free from all that has a hold on us, keeping us bound. John 11:44
3. In the grace of Jesus, a thirst is quenched to matter, belong, be saved.
- A. Jesus quenches our thirst for relationships. These days, we may be socially distant, and yet, we are still spiritually connected. People came to support Martha and Mary. We are God's people, too! John 11:18
 - B. Jesus quenches our thirst for compassion. Jesus wept. John 11:35-38
 - C. Jesus quenches our thirst for life, for salvation, hope. The One who is faithful, raises up and calls forth faith anew in one and all! John 11:5-7,15-17,25-27
4. Jesus on the cross announces his thirst. Sour wine did not quench his thirst. His is still thirsty. What for? For you! For you to trust him, to surrender to him, to step towards him, to answer him, to call on him, to believe in him, to worship him, to thirst for him! Trust anew the One who is present now and always, thirsts for you to know you are not alone. Believe anew, there is still time this day, as our Lenten journey continues this year, for Jesus to have his thirst quenched for you! John 11:25-26, 40, 45; John 19:28