



St. Timothy Catholic Church
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*Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!*
— Psalm 130:1

EZEKIEL'S COUNTER-STORY

It is difficult to overstate the bleak situation faced by the people of Israel described in today's reading from Ezekiel. Babylon had invaded Jerusalem, killed many of its inhabitants, and destroyed the temple. Some of them were forced into exile in Babylon. Their captors and neighbors likely concluded that the Babylonian deity had pummeled the Hebrew deity into submission. Israel's God was as good as dead, and the people of Israel as well. In the midst of this catastrophe, Ezekiel announces a counter-story. The narrative of God's death is false. Israel's God is alive, and God's own breath will restore their life. They will be lifted out of the grave of their grief and despair, and be returned to their land. Ezekiel's message speaks to all of us who know of profound disorientation, of separation from loved ones, and of deep loss. God will bear our unbearable sorrow, and God's spirit will offer new life and hope.

LA HISTORIA CONTRARIA DE EZEQUIEL

Es difícil exagerar la situación triste que enfrentó el pueblo de Israel descrito en la lectura de hoy del libro de Ezequiel. Babilonia había invadido Jerusalén, matado a muchos de sus habitantes y destruido el Templo. Algunos de ellos fueron forzados a ir en exilio a Babilonia. Sus captores y vecinos probablemente concluyeron que la deidad babilonia había dado una paliza a la deidad hebrea para someterla. El Dios de Israel estaba tan bueno como muerto, y también el pueblo de Israel. En medio de esta catástrofe, Ezequiel anuncia una contra historia. El relato de la muerte de Dios es falso. El Dios de Israel está vivo, y el aliento del mismo Dios restaurará su vida. Ellos serán levantados de la tumba y su dolor desaparecerá, y regresarán a su tierra. El mensaje de Ezequiel habla a todos nosotros que conocemos de la profundidad de la desorientación, de la separación de los seres queridos y de una pérdida profunda. Dios llevará nuestro dolor insoportable, y el espíritu de Dios ofrecerá nueva vida y esperanza.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the Lord GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. Then you shall know I am the LORD, O my people! (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

Psalm — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130).

Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

Archbishop's Message

"Let us remember that it is precisely at times such as this that the Church throughout her history has most brilliantly shone the light of Christ. Our Lord is now giving us this opportunity to exhibit spiritual excellence through heroic virtue. At a time when we are all feeling the pull of a "me first," "self-survival" mode to the exclusion of others, our Christian faith calls us precisely to put others first by acts of neighborliness, especially toward those who are most vulnerable.

With profound gratitude to health care workers and researchers, let us keep them in our daily prayers along with those suffering from this virus, all the sick, and our government leaders who are making such critical decisions for the public good at this time. Let us also remember to pray for those who are suffering materially as a result of the impact the current pandemic is having on the economy. Let us turn to our beautiful Blessed Mother, who unceasingly comes to the aid of her children in times of distress such as this." - Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone



WITH GOD

With God, go over the sea. Without God, don't even go over the threshold.

—Russian proverb

CREATE A FAMILY PRAYER SPACE

In the coming weeks, families will be spending more time together at home. One good use of this time would be to pray together on a regular basis. This prayer time together can be enhanced by creating a place in your home dedicated to prayer. Making a place for prayer in our home can help us do what the Gospel tells us, to go into an “inner room” to pray (Matthew 6:6).

- Make your prayer place as quiet, uncluttered, and “desert-like” as possible. It can be the corner of a room or any unused space.
- Furnish your prayer place with a Bible, prayer books, cross, rosary, icons, and a candle. Encourage family members to use the prayer place for personal as well as family prayer.
- You can bless your place of prayer, saying: Come, Holy God. Dwell in this place of prayer, and bless it with your peace and presence. Bless all who seek you here. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

From the heart...

Of all the psalms, *Psalm 23* is probably the best known and favorite of many. The words are familiar and even memorized and sung by many. The words give comfort in times of distress and give us strength and courage when we are afraid. They give assurance that we need not fear in the dark valley of death. They offer hope. They remind us that there's a way to go forward and promise us that we never walk alone. This is exactly what we need to hear and read in the midst of COVID19. We see ourselves now in a situation of change in our life and world when we see numbers of cases and deaths; when we acknowledge its effects; when we think about those losing jobs or income; when we wonder how long it will be until we greet each other again with hugs, kisses and handshakes. Let us remind ourselves that "the Lord is my Shepherd" and "I shall not want." These are the words of hope. So I invite you my dear brethren of St. Timothy Church, to pray *Psalm 23* when you get up in the morning. Say it not only for yourselves, but for everyone, for the country and the whole world.

Fr. Senic



The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



In keeping with the Social Distancing ordinance, all of St. Timothy's Holy Week Celebrations will be Live Streamed from the Church

Palm Sunday—April 5

According to the Vatican, the best way to keep our parishioners safe in the distribution of palms is to delay the distribution until we are able to once again gather together in the church for Mass. You may want to hold branches of your own in your home while following the Mass in real time via livestream, and Father will bless the branches in that way.

Holy Thursday/Mass of the Lord's Supper—7:00pm (Bi-Lingual)—April 9

The Rite of the Washing of the Feet and the transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose will both be omitted. Instead, the Blessed Sacrament will be reserved in the tabernacle and the Mass will end in the usual way. The Blessed Sacrament will then be taken to a secure place out of the tabernacle, in order for the tabernacle to be empty for the Good Friday Liturgy.

Donations for this Mass can be mailed to the office at 1515 Dolan Avenue, San Mateo CA 94401.

Good Friday/Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord—1:30pm English/6:00pm Spanish —April 10

Stations of the Cross, 7 Last Words and the Passion Play have been cancelled.

After the reading of the Lord's Passion, the Roman Missal permits the addition of a special intention to the Solemn Intercessions. I ask all of our parishioners to add an 11th intercession asking for an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith. "

Prayer in silence.

All: Amen

Checks for the Holy Land may be mailed to the Parish Office at 1515 Dolan Avenue San Mateo CA 94401

Easter Vigil Mass—8:30pm (Bi-Lingual) April 11

The Lighting and Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle, as well as the Procession will be omitted. Instead the Paschal Candle will be lit in its place in the Sanctuary and the Exultet will be sung. The lights of the church will be turned on after the candle is lit.

- * There will be no celebration of the Initiation Sacraments/Baptisms. No Rite of Acceptance, No Confirmation or First Communion. They will be postponed until the Vigil of Pentecost of the circumstances at that allow.
- * Instead the Easter Water will be blessed and the Renewal of our Baptismal Promises will be celebrated.

Easter Sunday—9:00 a.m. English and 12:00 pm Spanish—April 12