

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A Readings Used

Lord Jesus,
you called forth Lazarus
and commanded others
to set him free.

Set me free from sin
and from all that keeps me
from being the person
you want me to be.

Amen.



Sunday Word

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

To Help You Remember



1. **The tomb**—the place that held Lazarus until Jesus called him forth.
2. **The Son of God**—Jesus, who came into the world to bring new life to all.
3. **The stone**—the sin that weighs heavy on our hearts and minds and keeps us from being free.
4. **The resurrection and the life**—what Christ is; what Christ offers us.
5. **The Father**—God, who hears our cry to be set free.

Key Teachings



Body and Soul

We humans are mortal. This means that someday, our physical bodies will stop working, and—like Lazarus—we will die and be buried. But our souls do not die. They are the spiritual part of us that lives forever. At the final Resurrection, our bodies and our souls will be reunited.

Has someone or something you loved died? If so, who or what? What do you miss most about that person or thing?

Come Out of the Tomb

We are all tempted, and we all sin. We may feel guilty, embarrassed, or ashamed and afraid to admit to anyone what we have said or done. Like Lazarus, we may find ourselves in a tomb—bound by our sin and longing to be free.

Are there any sins weighing heavily on your mind and heart today? If so, take time to pray for and receive God's forgiveness.

Reflection



This week, ask Jesus to help you see ways you can set others free by showing forgiveness, by helping those in need, by speaking kind words, or by being a friend to someone who has no friends.

Pray each day the prayer on the front of this handout.

With My Family



We Listen

In today's Gospel, we heard the powerful story of the raising of Lazarus. Recall the people named in the story, including the crowd, and share each one's role in the story. What were their names? What did they say? What did they do? Then give each family member a chance to share his or her favorite part of the story. Encourage each person to explain his or her choice.

We Believe

Lazarus, who had died, was physically brought back to life at the command of Jesus. In the same way, all who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil pass from death to new life in Christ through the waters of Baptism.

We Live As Disciples

Recall Jesus telling the crowd to untie Lazarus and to let him go. Discuss as a family ways that people are bound—perhaps by poverty or sin or loneliness. Talk about practical things that you, as a family, can do to unbind them and let them go free. Decide on one definite action you will take in the week to come.

We Pray

On your kitchen or dining room table, or on your family prayer table, place strips of cloth to represent what held Lazarus bound and what holds us bound today. You may wish to invite family members to actually write their thoughts on the strips of cloth. Each day this week, take time to pray together the prayer on the front of this handout.