

## GOSPEL OF JOHN 11 C (36-44)

**<sup>36</sup>Then the Jews were saying, “Behold, how He was loving him.” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Was not this One able, Who opened the eyes of the blind, to have caused that this one should not die?”**

Chrysostom: “They do not relax their wickedness and allowed for the time that he opened the eyes of the blind...”

**<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again rebuking His deep feelings in Himself, comes to the sepulcher. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying upon it.**

Origen: “He rebukes the feeling that we may learn that he has become unchangeably human like ourselves.”

Augustine: “Why did Christ trouble himself except to intimate to you how you should be troubled when you are weighed down and crushed by so great a mass of iniquity? For here you have been looking to yourself, seeing your own guilt, doing an accounting of yourself...I have heard the gospel and despised it. I have been baptized and returned to my old habits...When you speak this way, Christ is already groaning, for your faith is groaning. In the voice of one who groans like this, the hope of that person’s rising comes to light. If this kind of faith is within, Christ is there too, groaning. For if there is faith in us, Christ is in us. ”

**<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the *one* who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, already he stinks, for it is the fourth day.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “I said to you that if you would believe, you should see the glory of God, did I not?”**

Bp. Gerasimos: “Divine love works to defeat and overcome the death not only of Lazarus, but of the entire human race; the resurrection of Lazarus symbolizes and prefigures the common resurrection of all the faithful.”

**<sup>41</sup>Then they took away the stone where the dead one was laid. And Jesus lifted *His* eyes upwards, and said, “Father, I give thanks to You that You heard Me. <sup>42</sup>“But I know that You hear Me always; but on account of the crowd which stood around I said *it*, that they might believe that You did send Me forth.”**

Bp. Gerasimos: “...we are taught to call upon God the Father and to approach Him as children approach their father with humility, respect and profound devotion, but also with a holy boldness. The thanksgiving proclaims the glory of God and is suitable when we present our petitions to God...”

St. Athanasius: “He had rotted so that they were not able to approach within the tomb...But into the midst came Jesus, the store-house that is full of life, the mouth that is full of sweet fragrance, the tongue that frightens death...the joy of those who are sorrowful, the rising of those who have fallen, the resurrection of the dead...the hope of the hopeless.”

Origen: "...those who pray are always heard."

**<sup>43</sup>And after He said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." <sup>44</sup>And the *one* who was dead came forth, *his* feet and hands having been bound with graveclothes; and his face had been bound about with a napkin. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let *him* go."**

Bp. Gerasimos: "The authoritative and ruling voice of Christ expressed the steadfast and decisive will for the destruction of the gates of death...He did not say, Lazarus be raised up, but come out, because Lazarus had already been raised from the dead, and now Jesus was merely calling him to come out of the tomb...no greeting, no special joy, no thanksgiving, why? It is something that transcends human things! All of these expected human reactions in the face of the sign of the miracle are small things for John..."

Ephraim the Syrian: "His tears were like the rain, and Lazarus like a grain of wheat, and the tomb like the earth. He gave forth a cry like that of thunder, and death trembled at his voice. Lazarus burst forth like a grain of wheat. He came forth and adored the Lord who raised him."

Andrew of Crete: "Lazarus, come out! It is the voice of the Lord, the proclamation of the King- and authoritative command. Come out - I am calling you; as Lord I am commanding you..."

St. Athanasius: "You are the work of my hands. Why have you not known me, because in the beginning I myself formed Adam from the earth and gave him breath? Open your mouth yourself so that I may give you breath...Behold the prophecy of Isaiah will be fulfilled in you, namely, 'I shall open your tombs, and I shall bring you forth (Is 25:8).'"