

Gospel Lesson for the Week

March 9, 2008

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Please read

[John 11:1-45](#)

Read also read

[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

[Psalm 130 \(UMH 848\)](#)

[Romans 8:6-11](#)

Jesus began to weep. John 11:35

"This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." John 11:4

The Tears of Jesus

Jesus still weeps.
as once he wept at the death of Lazarus,
sharing the grief of family and friends.
As once he wept over the city he loved,
He weeps today when he beholds
a child abused or abandoned,
a woman exploited,
a homeless person
whose only possession
is a shopping cart
laden with bits and pieces
of a shattered life.
He weeps at war's destruction.
He weeps at genocide
in the Balkans and Africa.
He weeps at the myopia and astigmatism
of racial prejudice.
He weeps at cancer and AIDS
and all the other ills of humankind.
He weeps at injustice,

whatever shape it takes.
Jesus still weeps

When Jesus wept
they were not phony tears,
superficial and spurious.
-- crocodile tears.
For when he wept,
the salt of his tears
mingled with the salt of his sweat.
The tears of Jesus
were not his only way
of dealing with grief.
He cried and then he went to work

The pain and suffering of this world
do not exist simply
to evoke our sorrow,
but rather to be the arena
for God's action
After the tears in Bethany,
came life, new life,
and the joy of reunion,
as God and humankind,
focused in the Man from Nazareth,
triumphed over the undertow
of pain and death.

And since we claim his name,
it's up to us
to bring that salty mix
of tears and sweat
to bear upon the ills
that made, that make our Savior cry.

---rvc