

My wife and I were heading out to dinner last week when she stopped and told me to do something with my hair. The weather was pretty dry so my hair looked as tho' I stuck my finger in a light socket. I sprayed it and wet it down. She told me, "Try again," which in translation means I STILL didn't look presentable. So, I put on a hat – problem solved.

I listen to my wife because she is always looking out for my best interest. She feeds me. She tends to my aches and pains. She cares for my health and wellbeing. To ME she is my life, my love.

And that's the theme that runs thru all today's readings – LIFE. Life that comes from our God, the God who breathed LIFE into all His creation. And another translation of the word life can be LOVE, for that is what God has intended from the being, to SHARE His boundless love with His creations, with mankind, with us.

The love God has for us is the same love that exists between God the Father and God the Son. It is the Holy Spirit, the breathe of life that comes into the world, the BREATHE God breathed into Adam, giving him life. The same spirit of life God tells Ezekiel He will put into His people that they may live.

In Ezekiel's time, the people were in exile, taken from their homeland, the spoils of a conquered nation, who have lost their faith in God whom they believed abandoned them. Like ourselves, it's sometimes hard for US to acknowledge that it is NOT God who has abandoned us in our times of hurt and need, but rather US who have turned away from God, US who have died in faith and from the grace of God by turning our backs to Him and taking a path of our own desire.

God does not desire us to die. His desire is for us to LIVE, and so we have the Holy Spirit to guide us in life, to remind us to love, to strengthen us in faith so to avoid temptation to sin, sin which is death.

Saint Paul reminds us that we are people of the Spirit of God because we have the Spirit of Christ within us, and as long as we keep to that spirit we will LIVE, even when our mortal bodies die. Yet even then our bodies will rise from the dead and live, just as Christ was raised from the dead and lives.

The love God has for us is manifest in the love Jesus has for Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. At the tomb of Lazarus Jesus proclaims to those in earshot that what he is about to do is NOT of his own accord, but of the one who sent him. Then the Word of God speaks, "Lazarus, come out," and he who was dead lives and comes forth.

Love and life are inseparable to God. God loves us and gives us life, only asking of us to love Him and our neighbors, EACH OTHER, in return, for which we will be given life eternal. Let the coming Passion of Christ be a reminder to us all how we treat others and how much God loves us. To give US life, He gave away His Son. God bless.