

No one had ever revived a dead man who had been dead for four days. It did happen that the dead were raised ; in the old testament we read about this and also earlier Christ had resurrected the daughter of Jairus who had just died and the son of the widow of Nain, who was already on his way to his grave. But this time, Lazaros is resurrected after four days. And Christ could have come sooner, but it seems that he deliberately waited. So that Son of God may be glorified, so it says. And when he arrives at the tomb, Christ weeps. Then he lets the stone roll away from the tomb and calls Lazaros to come out of the tomb. Then the dead man comes out of the grave, his hands and feet bound with grave cloths. And Christ says ; untie him and let him go.

The fathers are clear that all this is a reflection of our soul. Sin brings forth death . Sin is everything that goes against God, denies and ignores its existence, as we do in our thoughts, feelings, in our words, in our total attitude to life. That brings us spiritual death, that is, we lose the consciousness that God is always with us and with us everywhere. Christ saves us from that death . Like the daughter of Jairus, if in our relative innocence we have lost God, it is Christ who raises us up again. Or if we are sunk deep and actually are already on our way to the grave , like the son of the widow of Nain , and are lost beyond hope ; it is Christ who raises us up again. And if we are like Lazaros , who knew Christ , but lies four days in the tomb , and stinks , for sin stinks , with a great stone to keep us in the tomb , it is Christ who brings us out of the grave again . calls us to life and frees us from the bonds of sin so that we can once again glorify God in freedom. Our heart is in the grave, with a heavy stone on it that keeps us in the grave, but Christ rolls the stone away and sets us free. This rolling away of the stone happens here in the Holy Liturgy, so that we can glorify and adore Christ, together with the angels and the Saints. And of course Christ weeps when he sees what has become of man, God's image and likeness; stinking in the grave. Christ weeps because he loves Lazaros, he weeps because he loves man. At the tomb, Christ is confronted with the destruction of his creation, man. The love of Christ gives life to Lazaros; the Love of Christ brings man to life. He takes us out of the grave.