

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-43

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. ⁴¹ The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

So, will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

In my early 30's, I lost my "middle" older brother, Richard, in a private plane crash. Our family was devastated to lose this beloved young man so early and in such a horrible, sudden manner. We still miss him, four decades later, but this passage by Paul guides us to understand that the way a believer dies is not reflected in their resurrection. The reference of "glory" in resurrection envisions one free of all dishonor of sin and full of the eternal light of God's glory.

Prayer: Lord, we all suffer difficult losses of loved ones, friends, and family, particularly during these dangerous times of pandemic and major stress in our lives. Please guide us to understand that those we lose, who love you, are raised in your glory, as a "star in splendor." We miss them, and will always cherish the memory of their earthly bodies, and -through your love- recognize the splendor of the heavenly bodies they now enjoy. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

~ Submitted by Judy Lefler for the Thirty-sixth Reading of Lent.