

Gospel - 5th Sunday of Lent - Year A

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

**'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'**

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' **Jesus wept;** and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.'

Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,

but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him. **John 11:1-45**

Reflection:

In today's Gospel from St John we read about another miracle, the raising of Jesus' friend Lazarus and we are invited to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the Life.

In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him will remember this and will have hope. Jesus also raised Lazarus from the dead to help the people believe that Jesus is the Son of God, to help them to have faith and to show that he will bring life to those who believe in Him. Jesus shows empathy with us when he wept for His friend but then prayed that God would help His friends. Things might be happening around us right now that scare us or worry us and it might seem like God is not answering our prayers. However, we should keep praying for anything in our hearts whilst at the same time be open to whatever God has in store for us. We can like Martha and Mary, be angry with God and confused by what is going on, but it is important to remember that **God will never leave us alone.** He will be with us always. He has a plan. By knowing God and following His ways we will learn to give the best of ourselves in this life so that we can fulfil who we are created to be, find our mission here on earth which will one day lead us to eternal life.

When Mary and Martha saw Jesus, their faith helped them to know that whatever they asked of Him, He would help them.

Post-it Challenge:

Write a short prayer for someone in this world today who really needs God's help...

- ...in your family
- ...one of your friends
- ...the NHS doctors, nurses, volunteers
- ...an elderly neighbour
- ...yourself

Or...all of these people!

Now say the words of your prayer to God every day.

Remember to keep up the LOL too!

do not be anxious
about anything, BUT
in every situation,
by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your request
to God.

Philippians 4:6

Let us Pray:

*Holy Spirit,
be with our families as
everyone adjusts to the
new reality of working
and learning from
home.*

*Give strength to worn
out parents, enabling them to speak words of
kindness and encouragement to their children.
Help children to find new ways to experience
the beauty of all that you have created and let
your light shine through each person in all
that they are trying to be right now. Amen*

St Thomas, pray for us.



#LOL...LOVE OUT LOUD!

