

Fifth Sunday of Lent

M A R Y S G D T A E
U L V T Y E R V Y A
H A O R P O T O A B
G N O P U N Y G F G
E L A B I P R I C L
G R L U J E S U S W
W E Y W U R H D X R
D G P S I T F W I V
J N O I U U E O S J
M I N D X R P R P J
A P D Z E B A C B O
R E L N T E T Z P O
T E O D I D P E A F
H W V E Q L N L Z L
A V E I K E B W Y B
G I D D D E S I A R
B U R I A L V H M D
L E I T N U T A I J
H V K I X S P A C H
S Q E V E I L E B E

BELIEVE
BLIND
BURIAL
CAVE
CROWD
DEEPLY
DIED
GLORY

JESUS
LAID
LAZARUS
LOVED
MARTHA
MARY
OPENED
PERTURBED

RAISED
STONE
TROUBLED
UNTIE
WEEPING
WRAPPED

Catechizing Corner!

The raising of Lazarus is Jesus' last sign to the world before his impending passion. These are signs because they not only reveal Yahweh, the Almighty, Powerful Creator, but they point to the One who performed the sign, Jesus, the Christ. The signs of Jesus call people to radical faith.

This story is a prelude to the cross. It leads the way; it shows us the meaning of Jesus' coming passion. Lazarus was raised from the dead for a brief respite; Jesus was raised forever. Through Jesus' death and resurrection we all share in the Lazarus sign. The raising of Lazarus prompts every believer to answer the ultimate question: "Do you believe that I am the resurrection and the life?"

Most of John's signs are accompanied by an explanation of the event, except in this instance. This gospel reads more like an unfolding liturgy with a "certain number of declarations made as the action develops...." This illness does not end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of Man might be glorified through it... Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe'...This sort of composition has been likened to the words of a commentator explaining the unfolding of a liturgy, arousing the attention, spurring the curiosity, and provoking the reflection of the assembly." The declarations made in today's unfolding liturgy prompt assemblies ancient and contemporary to answer the question: "Do you believe in Jesus, the Christ, the One who raised Lazarus from the dead, and the One who can and will raise us from the death of our sinful lives?"

Mary Birmingham, *Word and Worship Workbook, Cycle A*
Paulist Press, 1998



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Disciple's Reflection for the Question of the Week

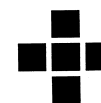
Fifth Sunday Of Lent
3/25/2007

A Call to Prayer

The Word of God
John 11:1-45

Faith Sharing
Questions of the week

Closing Prayer



H O L Y F A M I L Y C H U R C H

Holy Family is a welcoming
Catholic Eucharistic community of
disciples of Jesus Christ connecting
faith with life and reaching out to
those in need!

Call to Prayer

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment, and listen attentively to this week's passage.

The Word of God John 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became **perturbed** and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a **stench**; he has been dead for four days."

Gospel Glossary

Perturbed means disturbed or upset

Stench means an unpleasant odor

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said,

"Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me."

And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

Choose one

Who among your family and friends do you need to ask forgiveness from so that you can experience true freedom?

What is one thing you will do during Lent to become more open to God in your life?

How could you bring new life to someone, someplace, or some situation that seems lifeless?

Closing Prayer

Lord, You have called us to be your disciples, to live in faith, walking always in your footsteps. By your suffering, death, and resurrection, you have made us children of God. As you have loved us and asked us to love one another, help us to love and embrace everyone in our lives.

Fill us with love, compassion, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and tolerance, even when we face the pain of hatred, rejection, and failure.

Guide us to be good disciples. May we seek always the praise and glory of God and the good of all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Amen.

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