

## Growing through the Gospels together as a family

March 29, 2020

### Discuss and Share

- ⇒ Jesus cried for the loss of his friend. When you have felt truly sad for someone you cared about? What happened?
- ⇒ With God, it's never too late! What is something that you can change to make things better?

### Do together:

- ⇒ Be a bright spot for people struggling with the social distancing. On the *St. Chris Cares FB page* post a video for St. Chris' Got Talent! Not only will you brighten up the mood of fellow parishioners, but these videos will be made available to area nursing homes to share the love with the residents. PARENT MUST APPROVE AND UPLOAD. You can sing, play an instrument, show off your art, read a Bible verse, do a trick, give a sports demo... sky's the limit but be creative and have fun.

Gospel, John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying,  
"Master, the one you love is ill."  
When Jesus heard this he said,  
"This illness is not to end in death,  
but is for the glory of God,  
that the Son of God may be glorified through it."  
Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.  
So when he heard that he was ill,  
he remained for two days in the place where he was.  
Then after this he said to his disciples,  
"Let us go back to Judea." When Jesus arrived, he found  
that Lazarus  
had already been in the tomb for four days.  
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,  
she went to meet him;  
but Mary sat at home.  
Martha said to Jesus,  
"Lord, if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died.  
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,  
God will give you."  
Jesus said to her,  
"Your brother will rise."  
Martha said,  
"I know he will rise,  
in the resurrection on the last day."  
Jesus told her,  
"I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.  
Do you believe this?"  
She said to him, "Yes, Lord.  
I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of  
God,  
the one who is coming into the world."

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."  
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.

## It's never too late

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, it looked like he was too late. His friend Lazarus had died, and he had already been in the tomb for four days. Jesus was filled with sorrow and cried for his friend. But was it really too late? Jesus commanded them to take away the stone from the cave. He prayed to his Father, and then raised Lazarus from the dead! There are many times when things seem hopeless. We still face suffering and death in this world. The story of Lazarus shows us that Jesus' love is greater than any of our problems, stronger even than death! During Lent, we have been battling our sinfulness and renewing our trust in God's love. Today's Gospel strengthens our hope in eternal life. As Jesus raised Lazarus, he wants to raise us from our failures and sins, to give us a share in the victory of the cross. Lent isn't over yet! It's not too late for us to draw even closer to the Lord. With God, it's never too late.

*Lisa Reno*



Dear God of all life,

Help us to travel with Jesus  
not only in bringing life to  
others but also in walking  
the road to the cross.

We know we are like Jesus  
when we weep for others,  
when we offer love and  
help.

Help us, God, to live our  
lives fully alive to your will.  
Amen.

Resources: *Magnifikid* by Magnificat  
Online,  
*Celebrating the Gospels* by Cronin