

Lenten Reflection - 5th Sunday

Archbishop Naumann

March 21, 2021



GOSPEL READING - 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.

Reflection Questions

- At what points in your life have you seen Jesus revealing Himself to you?
- When has your faith in Christ provided great hope for you?
- Have you witnessed heroic acts of goodness and love in the midst of difficulty and suffering?
- Where is God calling you now to watch with "expectant eyes"?
- What fears or burdens might you be carrying as you follow Jesus through Calvary this Lent?

Lord Our God, we bless you.
As we ponder the Scriptures,
we ask you in your kindness
to fill us with the knowledge
of your will so that,
pleasing you in all things,
we may grow
in every good work.
We ask this through
Christ our Lord. Amen.

