

HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS MONDAY MISSION

THIS WEEK'S WORD:

Based on John 11:1-45

A man named Lazarus, who lived in Bethany with his sisters Mary and Martha, became seriously ill. Mary was the one known for pouring perfume on the Lord's feet and wiping them with her hair, and Lazarus was her brother. The sisters sent word to Jesus, telling him that his dear friend was sick. When Jesus heard this, he said that the sickness would not ultimately end in death but would serve to bring glory to God and reveal the glory of the Son of God.

Although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, he remained where he was for two more days. After that, he told his disciples they would return to Judea. The disciples were concerned because people there had recently tried to stone him, but Jesus reassured them and explained that Lazarus had "fallen asleep." They misunderstood, thinking Lazarus would recover, but Jesus spoke plainly and told them that Lazarus had died. He added that he was glad he had not been there, so that they might believe. Thomas then urged the others to go with Jesus, even if it meant facing death.

When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already been buried for four days. Many people had come to comfort Martha and Mary. Martha went out to meet Jesus and told him that if he had been there, her brother would not have died, yet she still believed God would grant whatever Jesus asked. Jesus assured her that her brother would rise again. Martha said she believed in the resurrection on the last day, but Jesus declared that he himself is the resurrection and the life, and that those who believe in him will live even after death. Martha affirmed her faith in him as the Messiah.

Mary later came to Jesus, weeping, and repeated Martha's words. Seeing her grief and the sorrow of those around her, Jesus was deeply moved and asked where Lazarus had been laid. When they showed him the tomb, Jesus wept. Some people observed his love, while others questioned why he had not prevented Lazarus's death.

At the tomb, Jesus asked for the stone to be removed. Martha hesitated because of the smell, but Jesus reminded her to believe. After praying aloud, he called Lazarus to come out. Lazarus emerged, still wrapped in burial cloths, and Jesus instructed them to unbind him. Many who witnessed this miracle believed in him.



REFLECT

In the Gospels, there are important moments when people show they truly understand who Jesus is. In one story, a man named Peter says this clearly. But in another Gospel, it is Martha who says something very important—she believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. It is special that a woman says this, because it shows that Jesus' message is for everyone, and that anyone can have strong faith.

Martha says this during a very sad time. Her brother Lazarus had been very sick, and she and her sister Mary had asked Jesus to come and help him. But Jesus did not arrive in time, and Lazarus died. When Jesus finally came, Martha was honest about her feelings. She told him that if he had been there, her brother would not have died. Even though she was upset, she still trusted Jesus. She believed that he was with her and cared about her.

Jesus understood her pain. He saw how sad Martha, Mary, and the others were, and he felt it too. The Bible tells us that Jesus cried.

This shows us that Jesus cares deeply about people and shares in our sadness. He does not leave us alone when we are hurting.

Martha teaches us that people can have faith and still ask questions. When Jesus asked for the tomb to be opened, Martha worried about practical things, like the smell. This reminds us that faith is part of everyday life, not just special or "holy" moments. God is with us in ordinary situations too.

Then something amazing happened. Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, and he came back to life. This miracle shows how powerful Jesus is. It also makes us think about our own lives. Sometimes there are things that hold us back, like fear or doubt, and stop us from living fully. Jesus wants to help set us free from those things.

This story is one of the most important miracles in John's Gospel. It also leads to a time when people begin to turn against Jesus. It reminds us that we are moving closer to Holy Week, when we remember the most important events of Jesus' life.

LET US PRAY

Dear God,
Thank you for loving us and caring about everything we feel.
Thank you for the story of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus,
and for showing us who Jesus is.
Help us to trust you, even when we are sad or confused,
and to be honest with you, knowing you listen.
Thank you, Jesus, that you are always with us
and understand our pain.
When we feel alone, remind us that you care.
Help us to see you in everyday life
and take away our fear and worry,
so we can live with joy and courage.
Amen.

MISSION

This week, try to trust God in both happy and difficult moments:

- When you feel worried, sad, or confused, take a moment to say a short prayer and be honest with God about how you feel.
- Look for God in everyday life—through small acts of kindness, time with others, or quiet moments.
- Try to do at least one kind thing each day to help someone else feel cared for.
- Finally, think about one fear or worry you have, and ask Jesus to help you be brave and trust him with it.