

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP 3

MARY, MARTHA & LAZARUS

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL

John 11:3-6; 17-44

So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

YOUTH HOMILY by Laila Rasmussen

In the reading from John, Lazarus, a friend of Jesus and the brother of Mary and Martha, was ill. The sisters asked Jesus to come and see him. When Jesus finally gets there, Lazarus had already been dead 4 days. When he was there, Jesus listened to Mary and Martha. He listened to their grief and sadness. He listened to the anger they had from him not being there when before Lazarus died. Verse 33 says, when Jesus saw Mary and Martha weeping, and he saw the other people weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. Jesus cried.

Jesus knows what we feel too. This past summer when I was at Ebert Ranch, the high ropes course was difficult for me, more so than the previous year. At the very beginning, I had gotten stuck on a course and had to be lowered down in my harness. I was terrified that I could fall because I was 40 feet in the air and to make it worse, there was a bee flying around me.

I was so overwhelmed while standing on this log I could barely think. The whole time I was praying "God please don't let me fall, I'm so scared". Being up there was horrifying. I wondered where God was. At the end of the course, I almost fell off! I turned to Pastor Kyle and asked him to pray for me, I was so scared I put all my trust in God.

The ropes course coordinator Matt, was up on the course with me. Like 8 feet in front of me. He saw how scared I was. He knew me because I had been there the last two years. He saw I was terrified. Immediately, he started to pray for me and I was able to finish the course. God was definitely with me.

Just like in the gospel, when Jesus was with Mary and Martha, God was with me. God is with us. God knows what we are feeling and feels those same things. When Lazarus died, Jesus was with Mary and Martha during the grief and gave them strength. And then, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead!!! Jesus does the impossible. Life from death. Joy from fear. God was with them.

Just as when I was on the ropes course God gave me strength even though I was scared and shaking. God is with you and will give you strength.

HOMILY *Pastor Kyle*

OFFERING ELW 608 *Offering received during Hymn*

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,



call - ing for you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's
plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and
prom - ised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has

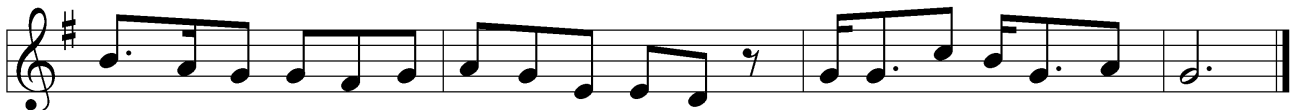


wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain



“Come home, come home! You who are wea - ry, come home.”



Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

WORSHIP LEADERS

Youth Homily	Laila Rasmussen
Cantor	Savannah Harris
Lector	Julie Landson
Prayers	Jake Parks
Homily	Pastor Kyle

2024 MID-WEEK LENTEN SERIES: GOD IS STILL WITH US

Holden Evening Prayer each Wednesday @ 7pm during Lent

March 13 (7pm) – Calming the storm – Mark 4:35-41

March 20 (7pm) – Jesus in the Garden – Mark 14:32-41



Two Ways to Give

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