



MARCH 26, 2023

EXPLORE THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14

Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Rom 8:8-11

The Raising of Lazarus

Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany,
the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil
and dried his feet with her hair;

it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.

So the sisters sent word to him 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.”

The disciples said to him,

“Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you,

and you want to go back there?”

Jesus answered,

“Are there not twelve hours in a day?

If one walks during the day, he does not stumble,

because he sees the light of this world.

But if one walks at night, he stumbles,

because the light is not in him.”

He said this, and then told them,
“Our friend Lazarus is asleep,
but I am going to awaken him.”
So the disciples said to him,
“Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”
But Jesus was talking about his death,
while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep.
So then Jesus said to them clearly,
“Lazarus has died.
And I am glad for you that I was not there,
that you may believe.
Let us go to him.”
So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples,
“Let us also go to die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus
had already been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.
And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary
to comfort them about their brother.
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 to him,
“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.”

When she had said this,
she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying,
“The teacher is here and is asking for you.”
As soon as she heard this,
she rose quickly and went to him.
For Jesus had not yet come into the village,
but was still where Martha had met him.
So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her
saw Mary get up quickly and go out,
they followed her,
presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.
When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,
she fell 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 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.”
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.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

St. Martha (Feast Day July 29)

First Century

Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus were close friends of Jesus. Jesus frequently dined in their home. No doubt Martha was an active sort of person. On one occasion, she prepares the meal for Jesus and his friends and says what she thinks is obvious: All hands should pitch in to help with the dinner. However, Martha's moment of glory is her simple and strong statement of faith in Jesus after her brother's death. “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 Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.’” ([John 11:25-27](#))

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- What would it have been like to witness Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead?
- Jesus was friends with Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. What do you think they talked about?
- Martha was a close friend of Jesus. What would it have been like to be a close friend of Jesus during his earthly ministry?
- Jesus loves you just as he loved Lazarus, and he wants to be *your* friend. Do you want to be friends with Jesus? Explain your answer.

FAMILY FUN

Outdoor or Indoor Recreational Activity

- Weather permitting, go to a local park, feed the ducks, or fly a kite.
- Make homemade play dough and get creative!
- Go bowling as a family.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Lazarakia

This traditional Greek Lenten bread recipe will help to bring today's Gospel story to life!

2 lbs. unbleached, all-purpose flour
3/4 cup olive oil
1 cup cane sugar
2 packets active dry yeast
1-3/4 cups lukewarm water (plus a little more if needed)
1 tsp orange peel, one tsp cinnamon or a combination of both
1 tsp salt

Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Mix all the dough ingredients and then knead well, until the batter becomes a nice soft dough. You may need to add a little extra water, depending on the quality of the flour. Cover and let the dough rest for about 15 minutes in a warm place.

Shape an egg-sized amount of dough into an oblong. For the hands, form two little ropes of dough and place them in an x-shape across the middle of the oblong. Form a third little rope into a circle and place it on top of the oblong for the head. (Visit web site link to see picture.) Place two cloves in the middle of the head for eyes. Repeat the process with remaining dough.

Place the Lazarakia on the baking sheets and let rise in a warm place until doubled in size, about 1 hour. Bake in a preheated 350 F oven for 30-40 minutes, or until the bread rolls turn golden-brown.

Variation: chocolate-filled Lazarakia

A favorite, though not so traditional, variation is to wrap a piece of vegan dark chocolate inside the oblong shape before adding the embellishments. The chocolate melts during baking, thus creating chocolate-filled Lazarakia.

From <https://orthodoxpebbles.com/lazarakia-recipe/>

FAMILY PRAYER

Springtime Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Spring is a time of change. Some changes we eagerly await and some we fear. Some changes we plan, and others arrive uninvited. To all these changes, we ask the gift of your Holy Spirit to help us meet these changes with expectation, hope, and rebirth. May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that you are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, you are ever at work in our lives, too. Open our eyes to the needed changes in our lives this spring. For this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

LITURGY LINK

Which of the following gestures do we do when the Gospel is proclaimed by the priest or deacon – sit, stand, or kneel? Why do we do that?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Remember a deceased family member in your prayers this week.

FUN FACTS

Did you know that each year March and June end on the same day of the week?

<https://www.52sundays.com/sundays/march-26-2023>