

# 5th Sunday in Lent

## 22nd March 2026



"The water that I will give him will become a spring of water within him welling up to eternal life."  
JOHN 4:14

The scene described at Bethany in this Sunday's Gospel is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet, she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of the upcoming events of Easter, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With many preparing for their baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In baptism, we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

Heavenly Father,  
in glorifying Jesus  
and sending us your Spirit,  
You open the way to eternal life.  
May my sharing in this Gift  
increase my love  
and make my faith grow stronger.

Amen

Lord,

Please help me this day. Give me eyes to see how You are at work in every one of my circumstances. Lord, give me perseverance to increase my understanding of You. Give me a hunger to read Your Word and to seek to know You more each day. Just as the dawn comes with its exact precision, help me to trust that You will also move in my life, in Your perfect timing and Your beautiful way. In Your name I pray,  
Amen.

In addition, this week let us pray for:

- ♦ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning;
- ♦ all the Lenten intentions and promises throughout our community;
- ♦ all those affected by the ongoing wars.



I am the resurrection and the life.

John 11:1.45