

Family Liturgy – Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A) Sunday 29 March 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a purple cloth on the table or floor (purple – the colour for Lent)
Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Gospel story and song
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
Print out sheet if required



<https://pixy.org/src/110/1106033.gif> free image

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: Today we hear that Jesus' heart was touched when he heard the message from his friends, Martha and Mary that their brother Lazarus had died. We join ourselves to Jesus and listen to what he is asking of us today.

Opening prayer: God of life, we give thanks to you for the gift of life. You have the power over life and death. Open our hearts to the ways you are with us in our life and in our family. Help us to live our life well so that we can live with you forever. Help us now to listen to your word to us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 31-45)

All: Glory to you O, Lord

Martha and her sister Mary sent a message to the Lord and told him that his good friend Lazarus was sick. Jesus loved Martha and her sister and brother. When Jesus got to Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died! Yet even now I know that God will do anything you ask." Jesus told her "Your brother will live again!" Martha answered, "I know that he will be raised to life on the last day, when all the dead are raised."

Jesus then answered, "I am the one who raises the dead to life. Everyone who has faith in me will live even if they die. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord!" she replied. "I do believe that you are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one we hoped would come into the world."

When Jesus saw that Mary and the people with her were crying, he was terribly upset and asked "Where have you put him?" They replied, "Lord, come and you will see."

Jesus started crying and the people said, "See how much he loved Lazarus."

So he went to the tomb which was a cave with a stone rolled against the entrance. Then he told the people to roll the stone away. But Martha said, "Lord, you know that Lazarus has been dead four days and there will be a bad smell.'

Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you had faith, you would see the glory of God?" After the stone had been rolled aside, Jesus looked up toward heaven and prayed, "Father, I thank you for answering my prayers. I know that you always answer my prayers. But I said this so that the people here would believe that you sent me.'

When Jesus had finished praying, he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" The man who had been dead came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of burial cloth, and a cloth covered his face. Jesus then told the people, "Untie him and let him go."

Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw the things that Jesus did, and they put their faith in him.

The gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the Gospel story of Jesus raising Lazarus.

<https://youtu.be/Dca8SSxXCmM> (5 mins)

Gospel reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder how Martha and Mary felt when Jesus didn't come straight away?

I wonder what Martha and Mary thought when Jesus did come?

I wonder what Martha and Mary thought when Jesus said that their brother will live again!

I wonder what Martha and Mary felt when Jesus said that he was the one who raises the dead to life?

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said that everyone who lives because of faith in him will never die?

I wonder how we can let Jesus walk with us each day in our life?

I wonder how we can show our faith in Jesus each day?

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs. (*We respond to the prayers by repeating the words 'Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer'*)

1 We pray for our Church and world leaders: that the Holy Spirit will inspire them to find ways to lead us to live a good life for the benefit of all people. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

2 We pray for all people in our parishes who are not able to meet together at this time: that they will call on Jesus to walk with them in their life and believe in God as the giver of all life. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

3 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time: that they may find comfort knowing the God of love is always walking beside them. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

4 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that they will be raised to new life with Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Closing prayer: God of life, we believe in your love - you are the Creator of the world. We believe in your love – you sent Jesus to live with us on earth. We believe in your love – because of the Holy Spirit who breathes life through us. Amen.

Closing song: He's got the whole world in his hands

https://youtu.be/xscZeFD2m_o?list=PLH_rt2X-6pJr1ryGsanjUroITL93PHnJo

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer in your prayer journal (special note book).
Ask the children to write a prayer thanking God for all the good things that are part of our life.
Add to this prayer journal each day.
- Act out the story
- Go to <https://sundayschoolzone.com/?s=lazarus> for various puzzles and activities