

Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE
DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY



John 11: 32 - 44

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 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 upward 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."

COLLECT

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



Resurrection of the Dead (c. 1250) Enamel Victoria and Albert Museum

“But what had lasting significance were not the miracles themselves but Jesus' love. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, and a few years later, Lazarus died again. Jesus healed the sick, but eventually caught some other disease. He fed the ten thousands, and the next day they were hungry again. But we remember his love. It wasn't that Jesus healed a leper but that he touched a leper, because no one touched lepers.” – Shane Claiborne

“It makes me think of Lazarus. He must have had those shadows after his miracle. You don't spend time in the tomb without it changing you, and everyone who was waiting for you to come out.” – Sara Zarr

in John 11 we see Jesus weeping at the death of his friend. We see Mary and Martha grieving their brother Lazarus' death, and we hear of others who had come to support the family as they mourned their brother.

Each person offering support to those who mourn in different ways. We are approaching Holy Week and Easter. A time when we are confronted with death and eternal life, but also a time when often families gather together and we notice those who are missing around the table due to death.

For today's action you're invited to write a note or email or perhaps call someone you know is grieving. It might be that it is a recent death or one whose year's mind falls at this time. Please be gentle with yourself.

Take a moment to remember the faithful departed in prayer today, including those who mourn and those for who will die this day.

A Prayer for those who mourn

Bless those who mourn, eternal God,
with the comfort of your love
that they may face each new day with hope
and the certainty that nothing can destroy
the good that has been given.
May their memories become joyful,
their days enriched with friendship,
and their lives encircled by your love.
Amen.

Vienna Cobb Anderson, from Prayers of Our Hearts (1991)

To Listen:

Nunc Dimittis by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

A playlist of music suggestions for the course can be found at
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3pJcG5xAlxzhL2Aolau0Q4?si=582cd1f921ae4fb1>