

who came to comfort Mary, saw what Jesus had done and consequently believed in Him.

The raising of Lazarus foreshadows the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is recorded in all four of the Gospels and is central to faith in Him. Jesus had prophesied that He would die and be raised up but His disciples did not then understand. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared many times before He ascended to heaven - it is thought to five hundred believers in all. He walked along the road to Emmaus, was seen in the upper room, broke bread and cooked fish beside Lake Galilee. In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, St John, who was then an old man, living in exile on the Greek island of Patmos, had glorious vision of heaven and saw again the risen Christ, now referred to as the Lamb (Revelation ch 22).

-Jane Stilling

Entrance antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

First Reading: Exodus 19: 2-6

Responsorial Psalm: 99. Response: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Second Reading: Romans 5 6: 11

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew: 9 36-10.8

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A, 2023 Weekly Reflection: The person of Jesus Christ: 3) “I am the resurrection and the life” (Gospel of St John ch11 v25): This is the third statement made

by Jesus in the Gospel of St John which illuminates His Person. Jesus had three friends whom he loved dearly: - Mary, her sister Martha and their brother Lazarus. They lived together in the village of Bethany, which was two miles south of Jerusalem, and were believers in Jesus. Lazarus became sick and the sisters sent word of this to Jesus. When He heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No it is for God’s glory, so that God’s Son may be glorified through it (John ch 11 v4). Jesus loved his friends but did not go immediately to see Lazarus - He stayed away two more days. Then Jesus said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up” (John ch11 v11). Jesus had been speaking of his death but His disciples thought that He meant natural sleep. He then travelled to Bethany and found that Lazarus had indeed died and had been in his tomb four days. In Jewish culture, the dead were buried quickly after death.

Jesus told the weeping Martha, “Your brother will rise again” (John ch 11 v23). He said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me, will never die” (John 11 v25). He then went to Lazarus’s tomb, which was a cave with a large stone over the entrance. The sisters and their friends were distraught. The Gospel states, “Jesus wept” (John ch11 v35). This is the shortest sentence in the whole of the Bible and it illustrates how much Jesus loved Lazarus. He commanded His disciples to remove the stone, despite Martha’s protestations that there would be a bad odour. The stone was moved. Jesus looked up and prayed to His Father. He then called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out (John ch11 v43) The dead man came out, his hands and feet were bound with strips of linen and a cloth was tied over his face. Jesus ordered the grave clothes to be removed and that Lazarus be allowed to go. The Gospel then went on to say that many of the Jews,