



Children's liturgy – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Welcome: Today we hear about an amazing thing that Jesus does when his friend Lazarus becomes sick and dies. Let's think a bit more about this today.

Opening prayer: God of light and power, we give thanks to you for the gift of life. Help us to do what we can so all people throughout the world can enjoy this gift.. Amen.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

he sisters sent Jesus a message: "Lord, your dear friend is ill."

When Jesus heard it, he said, "The final result of this illness will not be the death of Lazarus; this has happened in order to bring glory to God, and it will be the means by which the Son of God will receive glory."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he received the news that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then he said to the disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died! But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for."

"Your brother will rise to life," Jesus told her.

"I know," she replied, "that he will rise to life on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and all those who live and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord!" she answered. "I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Jesus saw her weeping, and he saw how the people who were with her were weeping also; his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved. "Where have you buried him?" he asked them.

"Come and see, Lord," they answered.

Jesus wept. "See how much he loved him!" the people said.

But some of them said, "He gave sight to the blind man, didn't he? Could he not have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Deeply moved once more, Jesus went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone placed at the entrance. "Take the stone away!" Jesus ordered.

Martha, the dead man's sister, answered, "There will be a bad smell, Lord. He has been buried four days!"

Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believed?" They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, "I thank you, Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me." After he had said this, he called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave clothes, and with a cloth round his face. "Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go."

Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did, and they believed in him. .

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about this reading?

Jesus hears that his friend Lazarus who lives in Bethany is sick. By the time Jesus gets there Lazarus is dead and has been buried for four days.

Jesus goes to the tomb and asks them to roll away the stone which was blocking the entrance. He tells Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Lazarus walks out, covered in the cloths that he was buried in.

How do you think Mary, Martha and the other people there feel when they see Lazarus walking out of the tomb?

Why do you think Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead? (So that the people believe that Jesus is the Son of God. To show that he brings life to those who believe in him.)

Unfortunately sometimes, just like Lazarus in today's gospel, people do get sick. When this happens they go to the hospital where doctors and nurses work hard to care for them and try to make them better.

It can be very sad and worrying when someone we love is sick or dies. Jesus knows how we feel. He cried for his friend Lazarus who he loved.

Not everyone gets to see a doctor when they need to. It can be a long way to go to the nearest hospital or they might not be able to pay for their medicine.

Some people find it hard to stay healthy because they do not have enough food to eat. Or clean water to drink.

Before Rupali in Bangladesh had her daughter Dristy, she worried that she and her husband would not be able to afford to keep the baby strong and healthy.

But Rupali joined a group who, with the help of CAFOD, lend people money and give them training to grow lots of food, while also looking after the environment.

With the money she was given, Rupali bought some fish to farm. When she earned some money from her fish, she bought ducks and chickens, then a cow and now she has a wonderful garden where she grows food.

Her daughter Dristy is doing well at school and hopes to become a doctor.

Rupali says, "I will stay well, I will keep my environment well, and I need to fight to help the people who are around me too. When they are all in a good place, the entire village will be in a good place."

God gives life to us all. God created us and wants every single one of us to live a happy life, with all the things that we need to grow and be the best people we can be.

And Jesus came to show us how to live, how to treat others. This Lent we can look at our own lives and think about the changes that we can make so that everyone can live their lives to the full. We can help people like Rupali to make a big difference in their own communities around the world.

What change will you make this Lent?

Activity

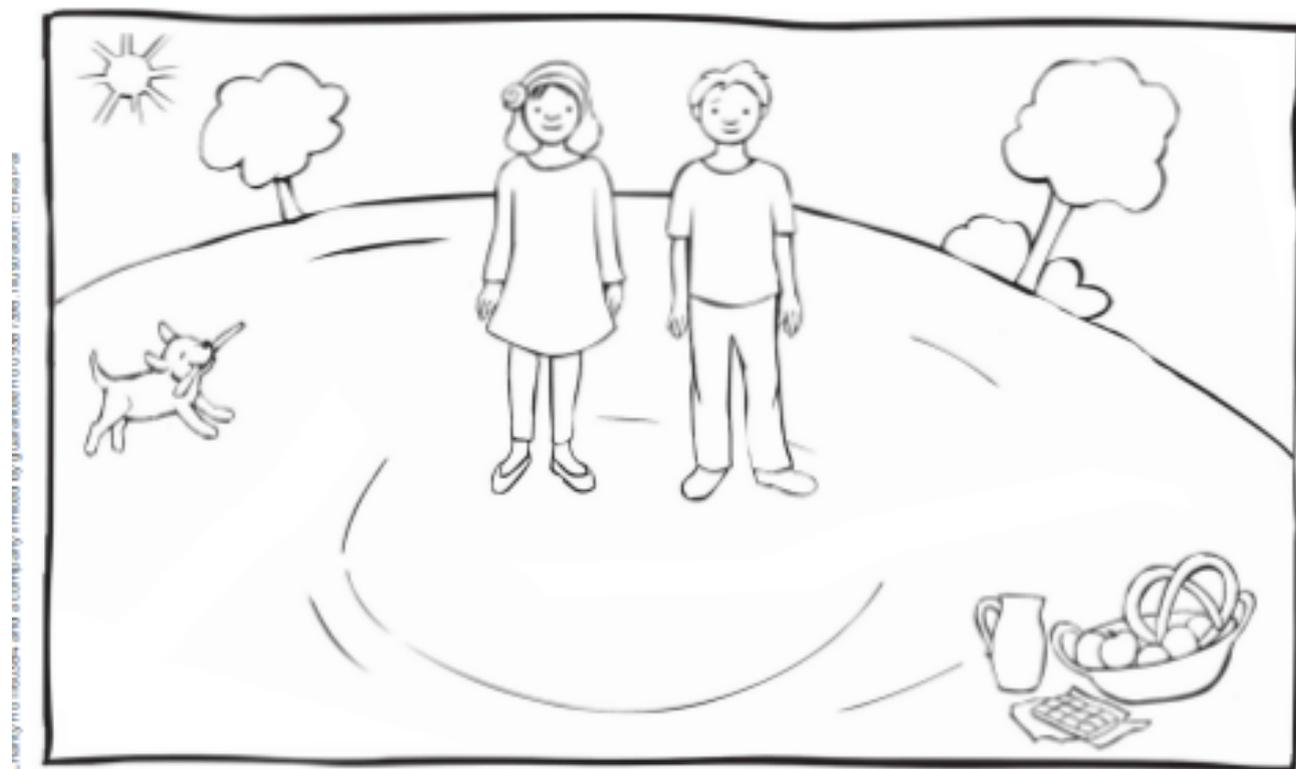
Colour in the illustration and draw around the children all the things that you need to live a happy life and be the best person you can be eg clean water, the chance to go to school, medicine, etc. One example, food, has been added to get you started. Have a go at the other activities too.

Remember to share with your grown ups all that you have heard and thought about in the liturgy today. Try to make one change to your own life and to help others as you try to make a change to build a better life too.

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Gospel: John 11:1-45

"When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before."



God gives life to us all. And God wants us all to have the things that we need to grow and be happy. In the picture draw all the things the children need to grow and be happy. One example, food, has been added to get you started.

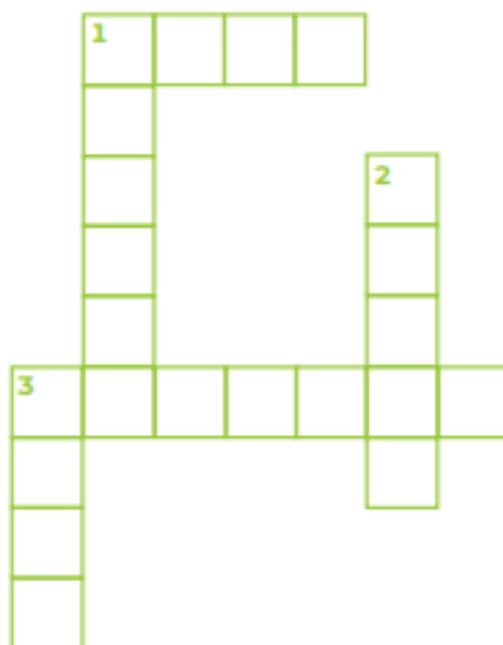
Complete the crossword puzzle

Across

1. The name of one of Lazarus' sisters
3. The name of Jesus' friend who died

Down

1. The name of Lazarus' other sister
2. Who raised Lazarus from the dead?
3. What did Jesus give to Lazarus? New.....



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